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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the idea of hosting some of the Japan tsunami and earthquake victims here in the CNMI?

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INSIDE

HR Issues
The prevailing wage system and the pending and long-awaited CNMI-only transitional worker regulations are the two hottest topics.

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Ravaged Economy
Japan's Nikkei stock index nosedived more than 12 percent Tuesday as the earthquake-shattered country faced an unfolding nuclear crisis.

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Survivors' Ordeal
Masashi Imai wrapped his arms around the wheelchair that held his disabled wife and clung on with all his strength.

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With tourism in jeopardy: Now what?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story forms part of a series that Saipan Tribune *will feature this week, examining the Commonwealth's tourism industry, focusing on the dire state of arrivals, particularly from its main market of Japan, and the steps that could be taken to reverse the trend.*

If it weren't for its pristine beaches, flaming sunsets, lush vegetation, a generally peaceful and stable political environment, and other features of a tropical paradise under a U.S. flag despite lack of tourism funding, the CNMI tourism industry could not have survived a series of setbacks since it peaked in 1996.

SPECIAL REPORT

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI families stroll on the grounds of the Tuesday Market at the Garapan Fishing Base where fresh fruits and vegetables are sold at reasonable prices. This is just among the weekly community activities that the CNMI could market as an additional tourist attraction that is not only family friendly, but also promotes local farming and fishing. Saipan also has its Thursday Night Garapan Street Market and Saturday Market in Susupe, both also trying to capture not only the local market but foreign visitors as well.

Task force continues monitoring nuclear situation in Japan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A six-member task force that acting governor Eloy S. Inos formed on Sunday continues to monitor the nuclear crisis in Japan as a third explosion in four days was reported Tuesday and as radiation levels soared.

Demapan

Press secretary Angel Demapan, a member of the small panel loosely called the Nuclear Monitoring Task Force, reiterated yesterday that the latest explosion at an overheating nuclear power plant reactor poses no immediate threat to the CNMI.

He said the CNMI gets regular updates from federal agencies about the earthquake-damaged nuclear power plants in Japan.

"We will continue to monitor updates from updates from our federal counterparts. Should a change of status occurs, we will be immediately disseminating it to the media and the public," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The task force is headed by act-

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Inos: Japan disaster could further cut $120M projected budget for 2012

»CNMI-Japan relief drive, hosting of affected families in the pipeline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the projected budget of $120 million for fiscal year 2012 could further go down as a result of Japan's quake and tsunami's impact on the CNMI tourism industry.

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- Japanese students continue trip to Saipan

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The CNMI, which relies heavily on arrivals from Japan to fuel its tourism, has already seen a steady drop in its annual budget to run the government operations including providing health, safety, education, and welfare services to the public.

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4 senators present foreign worker status recommendation to Congress. PAGE 5

CUC completes overhaul of engine 8 of power plant 1. PAGE 6

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'CNMI lucky to escape tsunami destruction'

»But resilient in face of adversity

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

American Red Cross NMI Chapter president John Hirsh said the Commonwealth is fortunate to have escaped the damage and destruction caused by the powerful earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan Friday afternoon.

"If the energy had gone south instead of east west, then we would have had just terrible devastation in our islands here… The way to describe it, we were just really lucky," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

A powerful 8.9-magnitude earthquake that triggered a 30-foot tsunami ravaged Japan's coastal areas in the northeastern region, sweeping away cars, boats, homes, with the death toll feared at tens of thousands of residents.

The devastating earthquake caused different countries to issue tsunami warnings and alerts, including the CNMI, prompting residents to evacuate to higher grounds.

Hirsh said the Commonwealth is lucky that the evacuation due to the tsunami warning happened at a time when the schools were already out or "it would have been more challenging."

According to Hirsh, the enormity of the situation in Japan is "so huge" that it is going to take weeks, even months, before the country can recover.

"Certainly, if we were to be affected at the scale that they are, where we have boats up in Middle Road, you can imagine the utter devastation that we would have," he said.

Hirsh noted, however, that the local community is "very resilient" since it already has pulled it through numerous disasters and calamities.

"We've been through so many storms and typhoons. We know what it's like to recover from adversity. I think our community will brave it out," he said.

Should a natural disaster strike the islands, Hirsh said the American Red Cross is prepared and "in good shape."

"We have lots of volunteers. We do have a warehouse here up at the office that's filled with relief supplies," he said.

Additionally, Hirsh highlighted how the American Red Cross involves the community in emergency management efforts by conducting workshops and trainings on disaster preparedness especially during the American Red Cross Month celebration every March.

Last March 5, American Red Cross conducted the Super CPR Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to educate people about the emergency procedure that has saved countless lives.

Hirsh emphasized the importance of fleeing low-lying areas and evacuating to higher grounds when earthquakes occur.

"That's the absolute life saver," he added.

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Japanese students continue trip to Saipan

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Nine Nagoya University students pose for *Saipan Tribune* at the beach behind the Carolinian Utt in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Although saddened by the tragedy that struck their country, many Japanese students continued their trip to Saipan.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As Japan is facing crisis in the aftermath of the powerful 8.9 magnitude earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck the country on Friday, many Japanese tourists, particularly those from unaffected areas, have continued their vacation on Saipan.

Although saddened with the double-headed tragedy coupled with a threat of nuclear meltdown, Japanese tourists mostly students proceeded with their trip to the island.

Among the many students who arrived on the island Monday midnight are nine students from Nagoya University.

The nine students, who belong to the Nagoya University Bandminton Club, were seen by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon playing beach volleyball behind the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"It's our graduation trip," said 22-year-old Tomomi Koshio, who was among the Nagoya University students who will be graduating this month.

Koshio said although they're sad with the tragedy, they pushed through with the trip because it was already planned.

When the powerful quake struck east of Honshu, Koshio was in Nagoya.

"We felt the earthquake, but not that strong," she said.

The student said their country had experienced strong

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MVA sees cancellations in next few days

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

It's business as usual at the Japan office of the Marianas Visitors Authority following Friday's killer earthquake and tsunami but it expects cancellations in coming days from those who have already booked plans to vacation in the CNMI.

"While there were a number of aftershocks over the weekend, all of our Japan staff and our office are fine, and the Japan office continues with business as usual despite the devastation seen in the north of Japan several hundred miles away," a report from the MVA offshore office states.

The report added that aftershocks from the earthquake continue, but the frequency and intensity has reduced.

"We expect tour cancellation numbers to come in over the next few days, and at this point travel agents and airlines are waiving all cancellation fees. A number of flights [especially domestic flights] have been canceled to the most affected areas [Sendai, Iwate, Aomori, Akita and Ibaraki]," it added.

It was reported that as a result of the earthquake, nuclear power plants have been taken offline in the north of Japan, and some evacuations within 10 kilometers of the power plants have taken place.

The MVA office in Japan reported that while there is no danger of radiation in Tokyo, the reduced electricity output may not be enough to meet demand.

"Our office is not included in scheduled blackout zones, but they may affect some of our media, travel trade, and other partners based outside Tokyo. Likewise, some of Tokyo's trains running to outlying areas are somewhat affected by the reduced power output, so some sales calls to distant travel trade partners will need to be postponed," the report states.

It was learned that Japan's four major airports of Haneda, Narita, Osaka, and Nagoya are now fully operational.

Based on the same report, the Sendai airport was completely covered by the tsunami and will take months to restore to regular operations. MVA said the airport has no direct flights to the Northern Marianas.

It said the number of visitors from Tohoku centered on Sendai to Saipan was about 8,000 in 2010, according to data from CNMI Customs Declaration Forms, and arrivals from the affected area can be expected to be limited in coming months as the region rebuilds.

MVA's Japan office said it was difficult for them to ask travel agents for the exact number of the cancellations in the past three days as all flights from Narita for Friday and Saturday had been cancelled.

"Although it was a difficult situation to ask…consumers had to stand by. As for Nagoya and Osaka, there was only little influence due to earthquake," it said.

JAPANESE

From Page 2

earthquakes in the past, and that she is optimistic that they can recover from this crisis.

Koshio said they really appreciate seeing many countries offer prayers and extend assistance to their country.

Koshio said it is her first trip to Saipan and that she likes the island.

"It's really nice. It's not crowded," she said as she compared the island to Hawaii and Guam where she had already spent vacations.

Koshio and her group will be returning to Japan tomorrow morning, Thursday.

Some Japanese students, however, were stranded on Saipan for a few days when the Narita airport was closed after the earthquake and tsunami hit the country.

Josie Pineda, operations manager for Xtreme Marine, said she saw over the weekend four Japanese students who were walking near their booth in Garapan.

Pineda said she learned that the four were supposed to go back to their country on Saturday and had already checked out from the hotel.

Pineda said although the students were not their customers, they offered them free food because they don't have anymore money.

They later brought the students back to the hotel.

The students flew back to Japan Monday night.

"A lot of our guests always come back because we use family style in treating them," she said.

Pineda said 40 tourists from Sendai, Japan cancelled their reservation on Monday because of the tragedy.

The 40 tourists, she added, however, only changed their scheduled trip to Saipan.

Pineda said while many tourists from affected places in Japan are not coming, she believes that many others want to have a vacation on Saipan because they could not sleep in their country as a result of the tragedy.

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TOURISM

From Page 1

The CNMI government invested less and less money in tourism instead of putting more into it when arrivals started to decline in 1997.

Funding the Marianas Visitors Authority continued to decrease even when tourism's twin industry of garment manufacturing completely pulled out in 2009.

Robert H. Jones, president and chief executive officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc. which owns Triple J Motors, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Truong's Restaurant, Super Fresh, Sandy Beach Homes, said the CNMI's tourism "is in poor condition."

"And without adequate funding, it will continue to decline," Jones told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said with Friday's earthquake and great loss of life, property, and facilities in Japan, the CNMI "will see a drop in visitor arrival from Japan in the near term." Japan remains to be the CNMI's major tourism market.

"It seems bad luck follows the islands. It is time for some good news and I hope it comes soon," he said.

For Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, "the CNMI is in a crisis in terms of our tourism industry, compared to how it used to be."

"The number of flights and arrivals show that we are in a crisis. The number of visitors from Japan is dropping as well, and we are having a challenging time bringing in airlines that would fly directly to the CNMI because of the lack of demand. We should not look at it as anything else because with the economy being the way it is, even though we are still surviving, we are not 'okay'," he said.

Lack of funding

Alex Youn, president of Star Stands Plaza, a retail store catering mostly to tourists said the CNMI's inability to get as many tourists as possible despite the economic problems of its tourism markets like Japan, Korea, and China, is the lack of funding for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"It all goes back to the fundamental problem of lack of funding to market, promote, and do other things for the industry," he said.

MVA, the primary government agency overseeing tourism, does not even have enough funding to pay its off-island tourism partners which it rely on to help bring in tourists to the CNMI. It owes its vendors some $2 million.

Villagomez said so far, nothing has been done to pay off MVA's debts due to lack of funding.

He said at the beginning of the 2011 budget discussions last year, all he wanted was to give MVA more money than what was being proposed in hopes that it will take care of tourism marketing/ promotion, and paying the vendors that they owe money to.

"However, that was not the outcome and MVA was given less than what I had proposed during the discussions. The least we could do was give them enough to make some kind of payment," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said these MVA vendors have been so good to the CNMI that even though they are not getting paid for now, "they still continue to do business with us."

"That is not fair. We should not continue to operate this way. We should not wait until they are serious about cutting us off. Tourism is our main industry and we need to support it," he added.

Count our blessings

Jones, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Businessperson of the Year, said the CNMI should count its blessings that its tourism partners continue to help the islands.

He said Japan Airlines and Continental's pullout was a major setback to the tourist industry, among other things.

"The help provided by Asiana, Delta, and the China charters have been great additions after losing JAL and Continental as we could have lost Northwest through their merger. So we should count our blessings since we don't have promotional funds," he said.

The business leader said if he were the head of MVA, he would not do anything different from what MVA has been doing to promote and market the CNMI.

"Except maybe get on my knees to the Legislature to show how we are pennywise and pound foolish for not funding MVA stronger to get out market share from Japan," he said.

David M. Sablan Sr., the first chairman of the Marianas Visitors Bureau, the predecessor of MVA, in 1976, said MVA vendors should be paid "because they are not going to do it for free" for a long time.

Sablan, who is also the president of Century Insurance Co. Ltd. and who oversees three hotels in the CNMI, said it also boils down to the attitude of government toward tourism.

"That is whether tourism is a priority or not," he said. "Obviously, the priority is payroll."

What should be done

Officials interviewed said MVA can't be blamed for everything because many of the reasons behind the decline in arrivals are beyond MVA or the CNMI's control like the economic crisis that's also affecting its major tourism markets.

Efrain F. Camacho, who has seen the local tourism industry climb up, peak, and fall since his engineering and architectural business built the then Hotel Nikko in the late '70s to early '80s, said it's not too late to save the dying tourism industry.

"The CNMI certainly has lots of beautiful tourism spots and beaches. Cleaning them up and maintaining them is a good start. Cleaning up Garapan as a central tourism district should be a priority. It has lots of dilapidated buildings," he said.

Camacho, a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president and former executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said the government could come up with an incentive program for every business in the western district of Garapan to spruce up their surrounding through applying 50 percent or less against their tax liability.

The owner of the EFC Engineers & Architects also said government entities tasked to maintain tourist sites "have done a lousy job" just when the CNMI needs to boost tourism arrivals to the islands.

Villagomez also said there's a need to beautify the islands some more, provide MVA with more money for promotional purposes, obtain more grants for the enhancement of tourist sites, and have the government and private sector support not only the tourism industry, but also economic development overall.

"Most importantly, I think that we should enforce the laws that are in the books on all levels and also come up with legislation that will help develop and protect the industry," he said.

The freshman lawmaker said this will show tourists and investors interested in tourism-related businesses that the CNMI is not only the place to visit but also a place to live and do business.

He said this will also show "that the CNMI is not only naturally beautiful, but safe as well—safe for business, safe for pleasure, and for whatever the purpose of the trip to the CNMI is."

But private sector businesses also could not rely heavily on the government not only to promote the industry but also to provide something different when they're already here.

Youn said Star Sands Plaza in Garapan, for example, bought the property rights on the label "I Love Saipan," prominently displayed in their store's façade. It has become a tourist attraction in itself.

Tourists take turns having their photos taken in front of the sign. And at night, tourists are treated to free cultural dance and song performances in front of the plaza.

Youn also said if he could have his way and if there's limited tourism funding, he would make use of online marketing to lure tourists to the CNMI.

"That's the most economic way. The MVA (Marianas Visitors Authority) is not doing online marketing, again because of funding issue. They don't have enough funding, but again it's not that expensive," he said.

Confusing messages

Camacho, however, said the CNMI gives mixed and confusing messages to its tourists and potential tourists.

"It's promoting itself as a family-friendly tourist destination. On the other hand, government officials are talking about casinos on Saipan. Casinos and family-friendly tourism are not compatible. That's a confusing message," he said.

Camacho added that Saipan voters had already twice rejected the legalization of casino gambling on their island. He was one of those who pushed against the casino initiatives.

He said marketing the CNMI as a family-friendly destination and a rest and recreation destination for U.S. military personnel does not conflict with each other.

"Our visiting military personnel now are not that rambunctious anymore, unlike before. I've spoken to visiting sailors and they said they love the beach sites, the tourism sites, and they don't care much about night establishments," he said.

Jones, for his part, said MVA is on the right track in both promoting the CNMI as a family friendly destination and making it a family friendly destination.

He said MVA is also right on promoting the CNMI as a golf and wedding destination.

Travel agent incentive program

Because of declining tourism arrivals, hotel occupancy in the CNMI remains below the healthy industry indicator average of 80 percent.

The peak hotel occupancy of 85.57 percent was in 1996, when arrivals and hotel occupancy tax were also at an all-time high. It fell to 81 percent in 1997 and since then, occupancy has only averaged between 58.05 percent and 71.75 percent every year.

And if there's low hotel occupancy, there's less collection from occupancy tax as well.

Hotel occupancy tax, which peaked at $10.3 million in 1997, dipped into a low of $4.87 million in 2002 and recovered only slightly since then.

Thirty percent of the hotel occupancy tax is being used to pay the government's debt to the NMI Retirement Fund now at some $317 million, and the other 70 percent is recently required by law to be deposited in a trust fund to sustain a tour agent incentives program.

Sablan, one of the pioneers in the CNMI tourism industry, is not too optimistic that using portions of what's collected from the hotel occupancy tax will be worth the monetary incentive of $100 per additional tourist that a travel agent brings from Nagoya and Osaka in Japan to the CNMI during low-peak season.

"It may be a losing proposition," he said.

But Villagomez begs to differ. As one of those who voted yes on the tourism incentive bill, he said he believes the program will make a difference.

"We'll just have to see how much of a difference. After all, there are other countries in the region that have a higher budget when it comes to marketing and selling their place as a destination," he said.

INOS

From Page 1

"We might be adjusting (the budget estimate), and taking into account the effect of the Japanese tourist market, so that's why we're doing whatever due diligence that we need to do to make sure we take that into account," Inos said in an interview.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday the government has yet to come up with projected amount of losses to the CNMI as a result of group travel cancellations and other developments related to the Japan disaster.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said agencies have started revising their budget submissions after they totaled $201 million when the administration projected only $120 million.

But Friday's 9.0-magnitude Japan quake and the tsunami could further bring down the $120 million projected budget, which is already a $12 million plunge from $132 million in FY 2011.

Inos said the administration is looking at whether the connecting flights from Osaka and Nagoya, for example, could be impacted.

This is because Gov. Benigno R. Fitial just recently signed into law an up to $6.2 million in travel agent incentive program wherein travel agents will be provided monetary incentive for every Japanese tourists they bring from Osaka and Nagoya during low arrivals period.

"We just passed the $6.3 million legislation to include Osaka and Nagoya. We hope that it doesn't really affect tremendously the Osaka activity but if you close Sendai, and it has a ripple effect so we're looking into that… Flights have resumed… We don't have any Japanese tourist that got stranded here," he said.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit its budget plan to the Legislature, and the Legislature has five months to timely pass a budget or a partial government shutdown could happen again just like last year.

CNMI-Japan relief drive

Community members have started working together to launch a relief drive for quake and tsunami victims.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said yesterday that MVA was charged with arranging and gathering Japanese nonprofit organizations for an open about a CNMI-Japan relief drive.

"This was done yesterday (Monday) and the effort is now more a public/private collaboration," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio said the first fundraising drive will be at the Thursday night street market in Garapan.

"Others are in the planning stage and will be announced once we have finalized arrangements," he added.

Families in the CNMI are also called on to consider welcoming into their homes Japanese families affected or displaced by the disaster in Japan.

Demapan said this is also a government-private sector initiative. Program plans are also still being worked on, including registration of families interested in participating in the program.

The acting governor earlier said this shows the CNMI's solidarity with the Japanese people, and to show they care.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the official death toll from the Japan quake and tsunami reached 1,647 on Monday, CNN reports. The toll is expected to rise as search and recovery efforts continue.

The confirmed death toll, growing every few hours, reached 2,475 on Tuesday. The number of dead is expected to rise, as rescuers reach more hard-hit areas.

TASK FORCE

From Page 1

ing special assistant for homeland security Marvin Seman.

Besides Demapan, the other members are Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar, Criminal Justice Planning Agency executive director Jerome Ierome, and public health and hospital preparedness director Warren Villagomez of the Department of Public Health.

The acting governor stressed on Monday that the general public need not panic because the conditions in Japan do not have an immediate impact on the CNMI.

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said on Tuesday that the risk of further releases of radioactive material from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant remains "very high."

Tokyo Electric Power Company, owners of the nuclear power plant, evacuated all but about 50 of their workers from the plant following Tuesday's explosion at the No. 2 reactor, CNN reports.

Radiation levels at the plant have increased to "levels that can impact human health," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano. This is between 100 and 400 millisieverts, or as much as 160 times higher than the average dose of radiation a typical person receives from natural sources in a year, CNN said.

There is global concern of total meltdown at quake-damaged nuclear power plants in Japan in the wake of a 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami on Friday.

Some 200,000 people living near these nuclear power plants have been evacuated since the weekend.

4 senators present foreign worker status recommendation to Congress

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and two other senators presented their recommendations on the long-term immigration status of foreign workers in the CNMI to House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs chair John Fleming (R-LA) and ranking member Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on Monday in Washington, D.C.

They also made formal presentations about their recommendation to U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources staffer Allen Stayman and U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs staffer Brian Modeste.

Stayman and Modeste are from U.S. House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over U.S. insular areas.

But there's no telling when Congress would act, if at all, on the CNMI Senate recommendation, or on the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation submitted in April 2010.

The four visiting senators, who also include Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), began their workweek in the nation's capital on Monday.

The CNMI Senate recommendation is for the U.S. Congress to grant foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

FAS citizens from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae can freely travel, work, live, and study in the U.S. and its territories.

Hofschneider, chairman of the CNMI Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, said Fleming "was receptive," and thanked Sablan for helping the senators get off to a fast start this week.

"He is very aware of immigration issues nationwide and told us he is in favor a robust guest worker policy," he said in a statement.

Hofschneider said it is also great luck for the Marianas that the subcommittee chairman has actually lived in the Marianas.

"He knows us. He knows what our lives are like," he said, adding that Fleming served as a naval doctor for two years in Guam.

Hofschneider's FRIA Committee led 10 public hearings from June 2010 to February 2011, soliciting opinions from non-immigrant workers and CNMI residents. The immigration policy recommendations are a result of that public input.

Torres said it is important that the professional staffers of congressional committees with jurisdictions over the CNMI and other insular areas understand what the CNMI Senate is trying to accomplish.

"If they aren't on our side, their bosses are going to be very difficult to convince," he said.

Manglona said they tried to impress upon Congress the seriousness of their effort to resolve the immigration conflicts they face.

"We can't afford to lose the workers our businesses depend on. But we also want to preserve and protect the rights of our indigenous population to have control over our islands—and to have jobs," he said.

Other meetings

Besides presenting their recommendation on the status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, the senators will be meeting with federal officials on other matters such as those related to health, transportation, education, and other immigration issues.

The senators said more immigration-related consultations are scheduled for later in the week with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Elizabeth Markey.

One of the visiting senators, Cruz, said one of the goals of that meeting is to get clarification on the availability of construction workers for any casino development on Tinian.

The other senators share a concern about locking in a visa program for Russian and Chinese tourists.

The four senators enlisted Sablan's office to arrange meetings with federal officials on health, transportation, infrastructure development, and other key concerns for the CNMI.

"By sitting down on Day 1 and mapping out our strategy with Congressman Sablan and agreeing to what our goals are for the week, we will be able use our time here as effectively as possible," Hofschneider said in a statement.

Among the topics on the agenda are the infrastructure needs of the CNMI Department of Public Health. The senators said they want a new CT-scan machine, cooling equipment, a hyperbaric chamber to treat diabetic patients, and even beds and other basic medical supplies.

Manglona said Rota has invested $1 million in its dialysis center "but a year has gone by and we're not operational." He said patients still have to leave their families to get treatment on Saipan.

They will meet on Wednesday with Assistant Secretary Paul DioGuardia and other senior officials at the Department of Health and Human Services to discuss the Commonwealth Health Center.

Torres, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said he is looking forward to learning about the status of a grant application for a community health center on Saipan to serve the Kagman community and is waiting to be briefed on how the CNMI government is taking advantage of the new health care reform law.

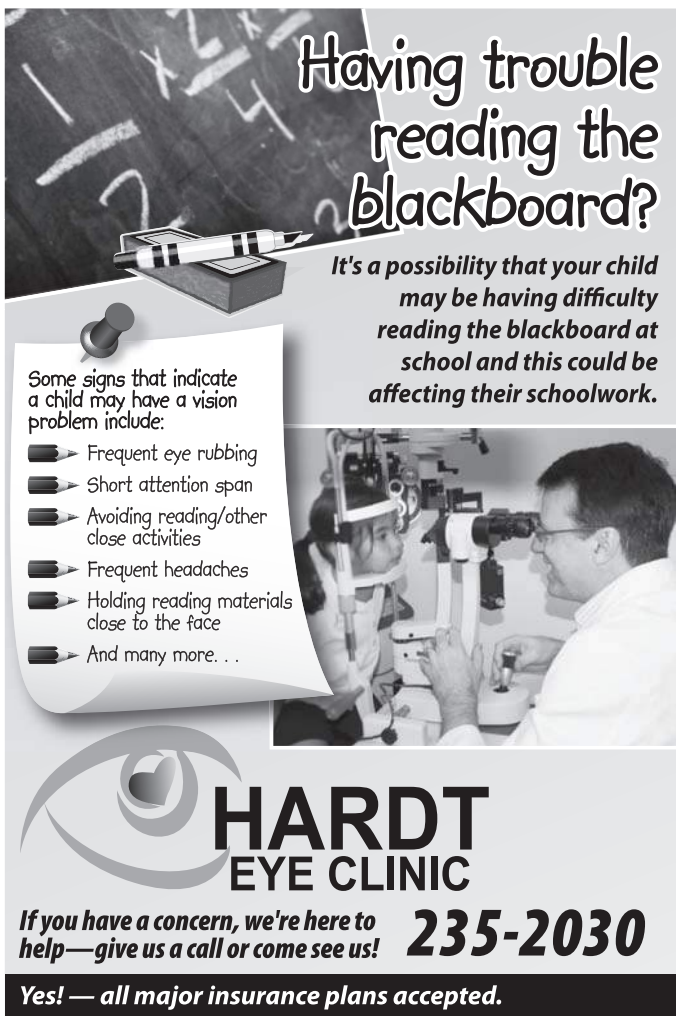
Sablan's office has arranged a briefing by the Congressional Research Service for the Senate delegation on air transportation service.

"Rota is particularly at the mercy of the airlines. I really appreciate that Congressman Sablan has made the experts that Congress relies on available to us… What can we do to improve service? What can the federal government do to convince more airlines to fly or to fly more often? Is there any way to lower costs? These are the kind of questions I want to ask," Manglona said.

Sablan and the senators said there's a need for additional support to recruit and retain teachers in the CNMI, and to set aside $6 million of capital improvement project funds to build a new junior high school to relieve overcrowding at Hopwood Junior High School.

The senators are expected to be back next week.

That's around the time when a U.S. congressional staff delegation from subcommittees with oversight of the CNMI and other insular areas is scheduled to visit Saipan next week.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TOYOTA

CUC completes overhaul of power plant 1's engine 8

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expecting an increase in power reliability and security following the completion of the long-delayed overhaul of engine 8 at power plant 1.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae disclosed yesterday that the overhaul of engine 8 was completed last Monday after a yearlong delay. He blamed the overhaul delay to inadequate funding to procure spare parts.

Malae disclosed that CUC spent $470,000 from its own funding source and $400,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs for the engine overhaul. OIA's funding is in addition to the $2.6 million it provided for the overhaul of three other generators namely engines 2, 3, and 6.

Saipan Tribune learned that overall work on engine 8 was done in-house with CUC staff.

Wallon Young, power generation manager, said the agency is pleased with the completed work.

"We are pleased with the completion of the engine 8 overhaul because its availability will increase the reliability and security of supply," said Young.

Malae admitted that although engine 8 has the capacity to displace all generation at power plant 4, it will not be put into full service until it undergoes a turbocharger retrofit. This retrofit will improve fuel efficiency further.

CUC's power plant 4 is being operated by an independent power producer.

Saipan Tribune learned that the turbocharger retrofit is a $4.75-million, ARRA-funded project, made available through the Department of Energy program.

This project involves retrofitting all of CUC's large engines, each with a pair of high efficiency turbochargers. Malae said the retrofit work will commence March 21 beginning with engine 8, followed by engines 5, 6, and 7.

Engine failure due to excessive vibration

CUC disclosed that the primary reason for the engine failures at the power plants was due to excessive engine vibration, which was caused by unbalanced cylinder loading.

Malae disclosed that for the repair of the foundation of engine 6 alone as well as the replacement of broken foundation bolts on engines 2 and 5, approximately $1 million of the $3 million grant from OIA will be used.

CUC disclosed that one example of engine failure that was caused by excessive engine vibration was the incident on Feb. 14, 2007 on engine 7. Using a Malin 6000 engine performance analyzer, it showed that cylinder loads varied between 263 kW to 848 kW per cylinder. Records show that one of the 18 cylinders in engine 7 was loaded at 848kW as the highest while another one with load of 263 kW which was the lowest.

"Other cylinder loads are all over the place—resulting in serious unbalance and vibration," said Young.

Lack of preventive maintenance

CUC is also replacing broken foundation bolts on engines 2 and 5. It was learned that only broken bolts will be replaced on these two engines as foundation repairs are not required.

CUC revealed that the foundation bolts failed before 2009 because of fatigue and excessive vibration due to a lack of preventive maintenance.

Malae disclosed that shorter bolts installed before 2005 all failed and will require replacement. The Mitsubishi design and installation of bolts is working like a charm.

CUC, he said, was not able to repair the engine foundations until 2010 and 2011, due to the unavailability of funds.

The electric rates then did not also support any preventive maintenance program at CUC's power plants; hence the eventual collapse of CUC power generation in August 2008. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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March 22nd & 23rd, 2011 • Saipan World Resort

Day 1 – Tuesday, March 22nd

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Summit Day Opening & Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Summit Overview & Guidelines
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Industry Presentations
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Industry Presentations

Day 2 – Wednesday, March 23rd

7:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Summit Day 2 Opening & Registration
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Day 2 Opening Remarks
9:30AM – 12:00 PM	Industry Break-Out Sessions
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Industry Break-Out Sessions
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Presentation of Industry Findings
4:30PM – 5:00PM	ERS 2011 Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Listen to off island experts and industry leaders in these fields on how to maximize our economic future.

Participate in individual industry break out sessions to discuss specifics on industry viability, infrastructure needs, barriers to development, the Government's role, items needed to advance industry in the NMI.

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... prioritizes rehabilitation of Saipan's wastewater system

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has made the rehabilitation of Saipan's wastewater system its No. 1 priority.

The utilities firm's deputy executive director Alan W. Fletcher disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* Monday that the agency is implementing a priority system in addressing the island's wastewater problems.

Fletcher said CUC follows a priority system to rank each facility; thereby determining which facility should be rehabilitated and/or replaced first.

As example, he said there is major work in progress at the Sadog Tasi and Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plants as well as other projects to upgrade sewer liftstations, the facilities that transport sewage to the treatment plants.

The agency earlier disclosed that more than the electricity concern, the status of the island's decades-old sewer system is another looming disaster that has the potential of developing into a public health emergency.

CUC earlier admitted that Saipan's sewer system is collapsing starting with the two secondary sewage treatment plants which are both found non-compliant with standards. The main connection at Puerto Rico is also not that far behind with its substandard construction and design, while the gravity mains are all failing because of age and acid attack.

"While we do experience problems in our wastewater collection and conveyance system, in most cases our field technicians are able to successfully respond to such emergencies by repairing or bypassing the troubled areas," Fletcher said, adding that tied to these issues is the age and condition of the entire wastewater system, which is a component of the Environmental Protection Agency's stipulated order.

There are basically three types of sewage treatment plants: primary, secondary and tertiary. There is also more advance treatment which can result in effluent that is much cleaner than the stream or body of water into which it is discharged.

All this work on Saipan's wastewater system is jointly funded by CUC's partners at the Office of Insular Affairs and EPA, according to Fletcher.

He disclosed that besides the work at the treatment plants, CUC has also rehabilitated several sewer lift stations, while rerouting flows in some areas to completely eliminate two older lift stations. Additional work continues also to the collection and conveyance pipelines in San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and As Terlaje areas. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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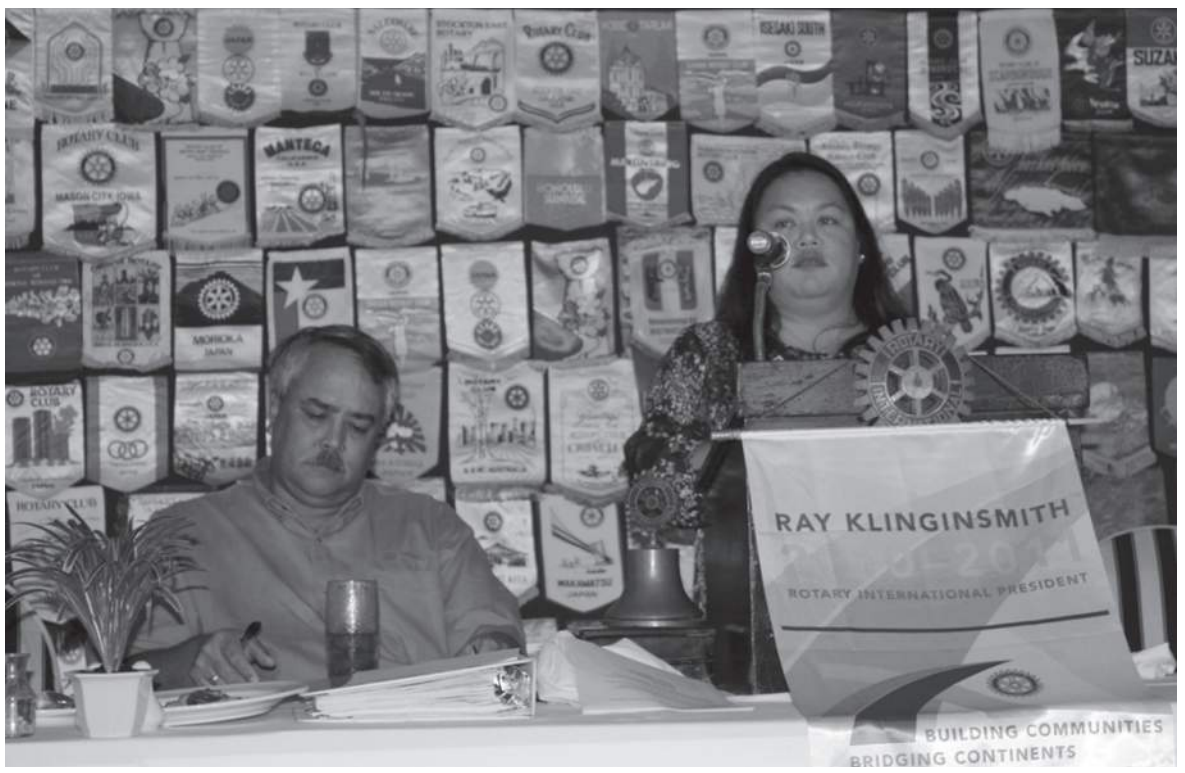
Workers regs, prevailing wage interest local HR professionals



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter president Polly Deleon Guerrero Masga talks about prevailing wage and workers' regulations in CNMI during yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Giovanni's. Also in photo is Rotary president Glen Perez.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prevailing wage system and the pending and long-awaited CNMI-only transitional worker regulations are the two hottest topics concerning the human resource profession in the Commonwealth, according to Polly Deleon Guerrero Masga.

"We are working closely with key individuals to try and have a CNMI prevailing wage study," said the president of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter yesterday.

Masga, the guest speaker of Rotary Club of Saipan during its regular meeting at Giovanni's Restaurant, emphasized the need to conduct the prevailing wage study but could not identify who should do it and how it should be funded.

Prevailing wage is the hourly wage, usual benefits, and overtime paid in the largest city in each county, to the majority or over 50 percent of workers, laborers, and mechanics. The minimum monetary wages and fringe benefits to be paid are established based on what is prevailing in the locality.

"With prevailing wage right now, the closest thing to match with the positions that we have available are actually on Guam," she noted, adding that Guam pays "way different" than CNMI for similar positions.

According to Masga, the pending release of rules and regulations governing nonresident workers in the CNMI is also of "great importance" since these workers only hold umbrella permits that will expire on November 2011.

Because of these issues, Masga said that the changing workforce is one challenge that companies have to deal with.

Masga highlighted the need for companies to invest in employee trainings and development, especially with the pressing need to find skilled workers that would fill various positions in the CNMI workforce.

"In the long run, [investing in your employees is] going to help you as a business owner," she added.

Becoming an SHRM member, Masga said, will help employers and organizations deal with human resource issues as they have "wealth of information" for all members.

"Membership with SHRM is basically key to staying on top of things," she said.

Founded in 1948, SHRM is the largest association for HR professionals with over 250,000 members and 575 affiliated chapters from around the world, including the NMI Chapter, with the goal to advance HR profession and professionals.

Masga said that the CNMI Chapter, which was established in 1997, aims to give as much updated information to help human resource professionals and businesses alike to know the latest on HR management or in business in general.

According to Masga, SHRM has valuable resources online like company policy drafts, job descriptions and other HR related forms and even sends timely legislative alerts to its members by email.

It also publishes a monthly magazine that highlights different areas concerning human resources, from compensation and benefits to health reform.

Masga said SHRM has conducted surveys and polls as well as research studies vital for HR professionals.

"The solution not just for your HR needs but for your organization as a whole is to realize that the solution really is to be a member of SHRM," she said.

For information, call Masga at 237-5122.

Rotary pledges $1K for quake, tsunami victims

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has pledged to donate $1,000 to go toward relief efforts for the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan.

During the group's meeting yesterday, Rotary president Glen Perez disclosed that the board of directors met in the morning to discuss about making a monetary donation to Rotary International District 2750.

According to Perez, they received an email from district vice secretary Hideyuki Suzuki informing them about the situation in Japan and how it affected Rotarians in the area.

"They are so concerned about the tsunami and aftershocks. The transportation system has come to a complete stop. He has not heard about anyone in the district being in trouble," Perez said, referring to Suzuki's email.

Perez said the district vice secretary also assured them that officers and members of District 2750 as well as their families are safe.

He said Suzuki will work with the governor to identify any opportunities to help the victims.

A powerful 8.9-magnitude earthquake hit Japan Friday afternoon, triggering a 30-foot tsunami that swept away cars, boats, homes, and people in the northeastern part of the country.

"The devastation in Japan is so heartbreaking and we'll continue to keep everyone posted about Rotarians' well being and how Pacific Basin Group can assist our friends in Japan," Perez said.

US congressional staff delegation Saipan-bound

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A U.S. congressional staff delegation will be on Saipan next week for discussions on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, among other things.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs led by majority staff member Bonnie Bruce will have a courtesy visit to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in the morning of March 23, press secretary Angel Demapan said.

This subcommittee has jurisdiction over the CNMI and other U.S. insular areas.

CNMI House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), in a memo yesterday, also said that at 10:30am on March 23, there will be a meeting between the visiting delegation and members of the CNMI House and Senate.

Cabrera said Bruce requested the meeting.

"The topic of discussion for this meeting will be regarding the implementation of Public Law 110-229, workforce needs, economic conditions in the NMI, and other related matters," Cabrera told members.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), now the top minority member of the most important subcommittee for the CNMI and all other U.S. territories, will be arriving on Saipan ahead of the congressional staff delegation, his office on Saipan said yesterday.

Sablan will be accompanying the delegation as they pay a courtesy visit to the governor and the Legislature.

But as of yesterday, there's no telling whether Friday's earthquake and tsunami in Japan will affect the congressional staff delegation's scheduled trip to Saipan.

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February 24-27th – Fiesta Resort & Spa
BEACH VOLLEYBALL CONTINENTAL CUP
March 4-6th – Pacific Islands Club
Marianas kids Cup Beach Volleyball Festival
March 13th – Fiesta Resort & Spa

Ultimatum set for Fund's pension software project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees has given management until this April to make a recommendation on the fate of the long-delayed pension software project.

Board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar said Fund administrator Richard Villagomez is expected to present a report that would have two recommendations: keep the project or scrap it altogether and run after its contractor.

The board earlier uncovered that the Fund has already paid over $402,000 for the still non-functioning pension software project designed by Express Electronics Ltd. It was initiated in 2008 and has yet been completed despite being 90-percent paid.

The board hired a program analyst to evaluate the database system project and the result indicated numerous inaccuracies that may take more time and resources to fix. It was revealed that data and calculation issues continue to plague the software.

Igisomar said the administrator was then instructed to work with the contractor on how the deficiencies could be resolved or fixed.

"Our question is: can we truly recover or fix it…or no? The management is looking into that and will report back to the board for an answer," said Igisomar.

But based on initial information he got, Igisomar said that it looks like the deficiencies are "fixable." However, he's crossing his fingers that nothing will transpire in the process.

From the start, Igisomar was vocal that if the project will not function as expected, the Fund will run after its contractor Express Electronics Ltd. owned by Gary Sword.

In a recent *Marianas Business Journal* article, Sword reportedly didn't fulfill a contract obligation in the Marshal Islands involving a management software system. The Marshall Islands Attorney General's Office accused Sword of "flagrantly breaching the trust reposed on them by the people of Marshall Islands."

It was learned that the 2005 contract with Sword's Express Electronics Ltd. was to install, equip, and maintain a "border management system" for the country at a cost of $579,380 which was reported fully paid despite a less than 50 percent performance on the contract.

When asked whether the Fund is worried on the possibility that the pension software project may result in the same fate as the project in the Marshall Islands, Igisomar said the case is entirely separate from what the Fund is dealing with Sword's company.

The Salvation Army's 'Japan Earthquake/Tsunami' Donation

If you would like to help the earthquake and tsunami relief efforts, please see the information below. If you live on Saipan and wish to donate by check, you can send your check to the address below or we can forward them, if you prefer.

We can be reached at 483-0885

Please note that we can only accept monetary donations; the reasons are set forth below.

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There are four ways people can contribute money to The Salvation Army's 'Japan Earthquake / Tsunamis' disaster relief efforts:

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- By phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY — designate gift for 'Japan Earthquake / Tsunamis'
- On-line at: www.salvationarmy.usawest.org — designate gift for 'Japan Earthquake / Tsunamis'
- By mail: Send your check, marked 'Japan Earthquake / Tsunamis' to

The Salvation Army World Service Office
International Relief Fund
PO Box 630728
Baltimore, MD 21263-0728

Salvation Army units up and down the U.S. Pacific Coast and in the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands are on standby and ready to help.

At this time, The Salvation Army is not accepting in-kind donations from the general public for disaster relief operations in Japan.

Keep in mind it will be extremely difficult and expensive to ship in-kind donations overseas from the United States to Japan. It is more efficient for disaster relief agencies to purchase needed resources locally and for immediate distribution with the disaster area. The best way for U.S. donors to help Japanese disaster survivors is to make a cash donation.

Please note that your local The Salvation Army continues to accept donations of used clothing, furniture and other items to support local programming. Please consider donating your used items to your local Salvation Army Thrift Store.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 16, 1999

'Change orders' blamed in school project delay

With two expenditure authorities for the project and change orders continue to pour in, the Public School System will not be able to open the Kagman Elementary School in August as scheduled. "We are heading for a disaster because we use the dirty word of 'change orders'," Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino told colleagues during the recent CIP Committee meeting of PSS. He said the Kagman project has two expenditure authorities, the Department of Public Works control its $4 million budget, while the Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos was named for its $2.5 million funding.

MVA backs scrap of overtime fees

Marianas Visitors Authority board chairman Dave M. Sablan yesterday said he is supporting the call for the removal of overtime charges of the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine offices in the performance of their inspection duties to help the airlines currently servicing the CNMI. However, he reiterated his request for the Commonwealth Ports Authority to reduce by 50 percent the landing fee for new and existing carriers that would introduce direct service to the Northern Marianas from a market that is currently not being served. Earlier, ports authority board chairman Roman S. Palacios sent a letter to Finance Secretary Lucy DLG Nielsen seeking her assistance at this time when most businesses are having difficulty to survive Asia's financial crisis.

Mar. 16, 2000

Purple Heart for CNMI's marine scout

The Senate yesterday adopted a resolution recognizing the heroism of a 73-year-old Saipan resident whom it said had sacrificed his life to fight along with U.S. soldiers to liberate the island from Japanese forces during World War II. Marine Corporal Cristino Sablan dela Cruz will be awarded the Purple Heart with Gold Start medal tomorrow to acknowledge his services as native scout guide assisting U.S. Marines in its operations in the Marianas. He was twice wounded in combat, said the resolution, "injuries making the more vivid the risk and sacrifice he faced" in the military service in the liberation of Saipan.

USFW grants $160K for Rota marina construction

With a $160,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sports Fish Restoration-Boating Access Program, the Rota Marina will be completed before the end of the year. According to Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman, Rota marina will have a minimum of 16 slips which can later on be expanded once the funds are available. An architectural and engineering firm has already been chosen to do the job in Rota marina. Currently, DFW is also working on the repair of Tinian marina which has 16 slips. The island-municipality of Rota has been waiting for the completion of the marina which can help attract tourists on the island and assist in the promotion of sports fishing.

Mar. 16, 2001

MCV continues audit of Garapan system

Marianas Cable Vision will continue its audit of the Garapan cable system for the next few weeks. Some residents may have already noticed MCV personnel and vehicles in the area checking cable connections and removing old worn cable lines. MCV has also been disconnecting those individuals and barracks that have been illegally tapping into the system, causing poor reception to it's paying customers. Connecting to MCV's system without authorization from the cable provider is illegal and punishable under federal law, said company officials in a media statement. Splicing into a neighbor's line, or moving into a residence where the lines is still active and the owner does not have an agreement with MCV are both examples of illegal hookups and violates the FCC's Telecommunications act of 1996.

US House OKs Guam war claims review commission

With remarkable speed, the House passed Congressman Robert A. Underwood's Guam War Claims Review Commission Act, HR 308, by a voice vote. The Act was introduced in January. "We were able to move the bill on the Suspension Calendar within the first two months of Congress. This is unprecedented speed," Mr. Underwood said, adding that the committee sent the bill to the floor for a vote without a hearing or a mark-up. "This is good news in our longstanding quest to bring honor and dignity and resolution to this issue which has bedeviled our World War II generation for so long," he added.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

War, what is it meant for?

Given the U.S. experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is unsurprising that many Americans have grown skeptical about further intervention in conflicts abroad. Like the Vietnam War, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have proved long, costly and not terribly successful, and have left some Americans with a sense that their country has neither the resolve nor—despite its overwhelming military superiority—the power necessary to achieve its aims. Some go beyond that to say that the United States lacks the moral authority to be the world's policeman.

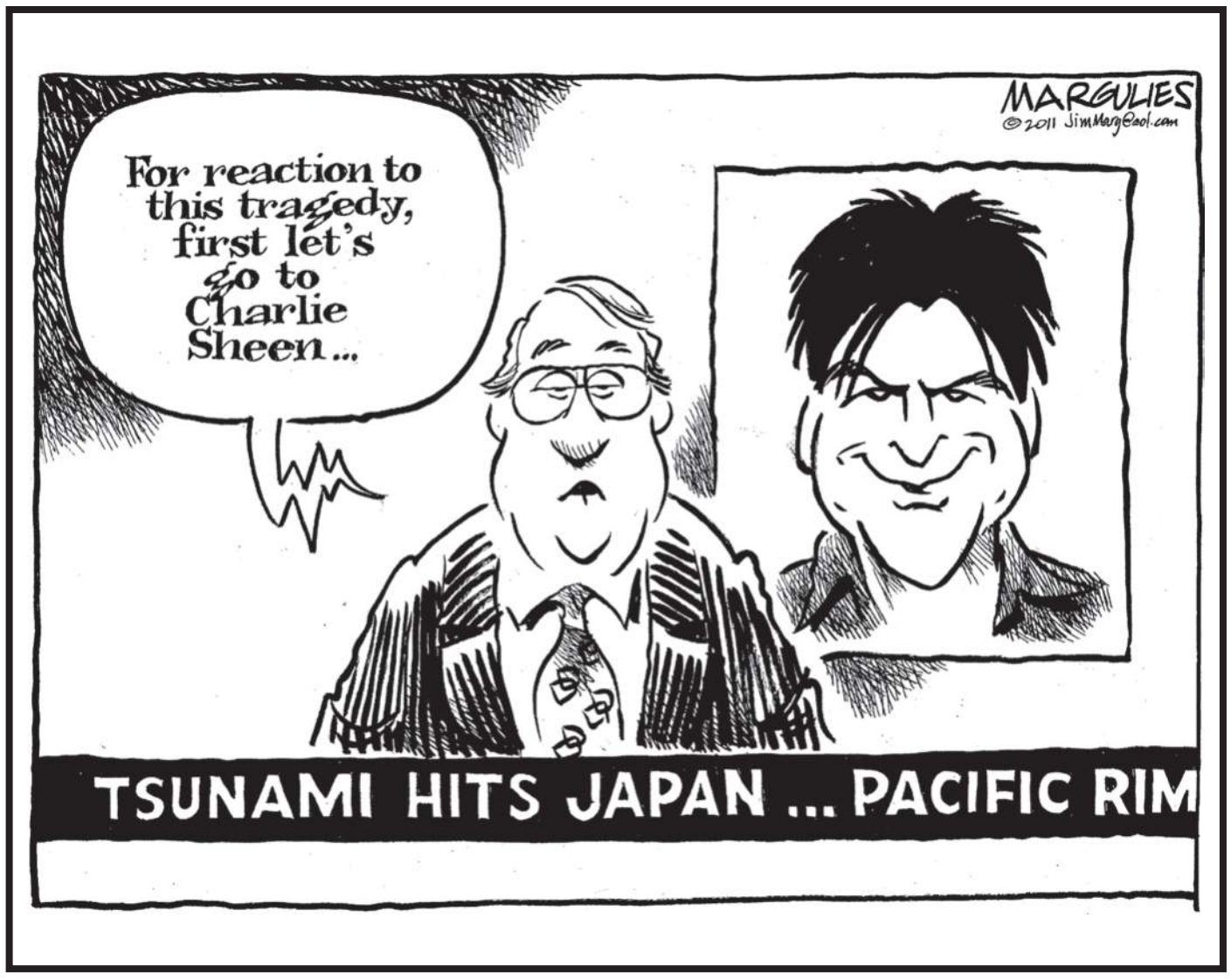
That impulse to hang back is not a bad one. Foreign military entanglements, especially those undertaken in the name of humanitarianism and democracy, shouldn't be entered into lightly. No country, the United States included, has the resources or the will to solve all the problems on Earth, where people are starving and suffering and killing one another on a regular basis. What's more, when it comes to crises like those roiling the Middle East today, there are complicating factors that make military intervention difficult: the difficulty of distinguishing the good guys from the bad guys, the tremendous responsibility that follows when the conflict ends and the rebuilding begins, and the fact that revolutionaries don't always want outside assistance.

For those and other reasons, we have been reluctant to support military involvement in the upheaval in Libya, and we came out last week against a no-fly zone, arguing that it was more complicated than it sounded and could draw the United States into a war that is not its own. After all, if the United States is willing to shoot down planes over Libya, then it's hard to see the argument against sending in ground troops. If the United States decides to intervene on behalf of the rebels in Libya, then it's easy enough to do the same for those fighting the regimes in Yemen, Bahrain or Iran. That's how escalation works.

But that leaves unanswered the tougher, long-term question facing policymakers: When should a nation go to war? What circumstances justify U.S. military involvement and the potential loss of American lives as well as the lives of civilians in faraway countries? Self-defense in response to an invasion or attack seems like an obvious example of a justifiable war, but does that mean the U.S. is also justified in launching a pre-emptive war to stave off a looming threat? Should the United States or the world have acknowledged a responsibility to protect the civilians at risk of genocide in Rwanda in 1994 (or those in Darfur or Bosnia or Nazi Germany)? Does the United States have a moral obligation to help force out a repressive dictator if hundreds of thousands of protesters gather in the streets? And in Libya today, must the U.S. and the world stand idly by if Moammar Gadhafi opts to retain power by slaughtering his own people?

There are many schools of thought on these questions. Foreign policy "realists," for example, argue that nations should go to war only when vital national interests or national security are

See WAR on Next Page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For reaction to this tragedy, first let's go to Charlie Sheen...
TSUNAMI HITS JAPAN ... PACIFIC RIM

Turkey's crackdown on the press smacks of authoritarianism

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

During my recent trip to Egypt, many young activists told me Turkey's democracy might be a model for them to follow.

In their minds, Turkey, with its mostly Sunni Muslim population, has managed to meld its Muslim heritage with a state based on rule of law and a secular constitution. However, the Turkish government has recently been showing disturbing signs of the kind of authoritarianism the Egyptians spurned.

In the last few weeks, Turkish authorities have detained at least a dozen journalists whose work criticized the government. They are accused of being part of an alleged plot to overthrow Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government after it came to power in 2002.

These journalists are only the latest of several hundred current and former military officers, intellectuals, university presidents, women's rights advocates, and writers rounded up since 2007 as part of this supposed plot. The conspiracy was purportedly initiated by a shadowy network of military officers and ex-security operatives called Ergenekon (the name of a mythical Turkish valley).

But Ergenekon looks more and more like an excuse for a religiously oriented government to silence outspoken advocates of maintaining Turkey as a secular state.

Consider the cases of two of the arrested journalists. Nedim Sener, a highly respected reporter for Millyet, received the International Press Institute's 2010 "World Press Freedom Hero" award for his book about the murder of Armenian Turkish journalist Hrant Dink (in which he alleged that government security forces were complicit).

Ahmet Sik, another investigative journalist, had criticized a key supporter of the government, a controversial Turkish imam named Fetullah Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania but has great influence and a large following in Turkey. Sik claimed Gulen's movement infiltrated Turkey's security forces.

The government prosecutor straight-facedly denied these men were arrested for their writings, but he refused to make public any evidence against them, citing the (endlessly) ongoing Ergenekon probe.

When the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Frank Ricciardone, asked how the jailing of journalists jibes with Turkey's stated policy of supporting a free press, Erdogan criticized him harshly. But refusing to answer that question won't make it go away.

The Erdogan government's pressure on press critics has led the international press watchdog, Reporters Without Borders, to rank Turkey 138th among 178 countries, only two spots above Russia, where journalists are notoriously endangered.

The press group attributes this low rank to Turkey's "frenzied proliferation of lawsuits, incarcerations, and court sentencing, (all) targeting journalists." In 2009, for example, Turkey's Tax Ministry levied $3 billion in fines against the Dogan media group of newspapers and TV stations, which were critics of Erdogan, charging he was pushing secular Turkey in too Islamic a direction.

If upheld, these draconian fines could put the media group out of business. Using massive tax fines against opponents is all too reminiscent of the tactics used by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

When the Ergenekon investigation began, some Turkish liberals hoped it might advance civilian controls over a military that had conducted four coups against elected governments in past decades. But the probe has expanded into an unending witch hunt, with no end in sight.

Some of the accused have been held for years without trial. Others, released after tough questioning, have the threat of future indictments hanging over their heads.

The government's case appears to be based largely on a massive network of government wiretaps, from which tidbits are selectively leaked to the media, creating an atmosphere of intimidation. However, the government has yet to prove that any conspiracy actually occurred.

"In 5,800 original pages (of Ergenekon charges) there is not one shred of proof that this organization exists," said Gareth Jenkins, a Turkey specialist who has written extensively on the affair. He has read the entire indictment. "They (the Turkish government) have created a fictional organization, and used it to go after their political opponents," he said.

The Erdogan government rejects such claims, but does nothing to dispel them by bringing the probe to a conclusion. That contradiction casts a shadow over Turkish democracy and its aspirations to enter the European Union. It also undercuts the hope that Ankara can provide the model Egyptian democrats seek.

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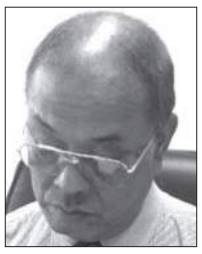
Reluctant culture of mañana



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

The NMI is never in short supply of scapegoats and lame excuses. We've turned the maintenance of the status quo into an art. We've refused to do what's right for all citizens. We've perverted the art of self-government into a self-serving creature of convenience. But weren't we given the tools to make appropriate changes over the last 32 years? To wit:

There was the seven-year guaranteed funding under the terms and conditions of the Covenant Agreement of over half-a-billion dollars.

You wonder why Saipan is still without potable water, a sewer system that has been dwarfed by residential and commercial development; Tinian still makes do with its World War II harbor and Rota suffers heavily from the lack of a decent seaport.

We took things for granted on funds we receive from the federal government. We never settled down to plan the future of these isles. In the process, we cemented our mañana culture and now quiz what happened to the fiscal disaster devouring jobs and revenues all over the archipelago.

That grant funds are finite makes it imperative that we engage deliberative discussions to realistically prepare the socio-economic plan of the NMI. We didn't. And though we failed to do so, Uncle Sam continues to give us more CIP funds to work with while we sashay our way into strengthening the mañana culture.

Over the same period, Guam has gone ahead refining its socio-economic plans. It includes proactively shifting tourism from accommodation to ownership. It has scrapped the accrual system in favor of actual collections. We seem to lack the resolve to call on quickly dwindling resources. Thus the usual refrain of "delayed" paydays.

This as the NMI heads the other way. The Republic of Belau has started flexing its muscle making real strides in its tourism industry. Both destinations will become the largest competitor against the NMI in tourism. This definitely requires serious or critical ocular review! They progress while we regress, dazed.

Our grand mañana has also contributed to the loss of confidence in what we can do here at home. It drained the NMI of the enthusiasm to help itself proactively by encouraging more indigenous entrepreneurship over the "everything is government" mindset. Furthermore, we've gotten a bit too lazy and have embraced obesity as a part of our culture of mañana.

Perhaps we ought to issue syllabus to leadership with fully scripted narrative to follow through to completion. Our NMC staff and students would be more than happy to assist in this venture. They are good at outlining study guides by skimming through their textbooks and other authoritative sources. Don't be embarrassed for we already know you need a lot of help on hooked on phonics. We also know that you've been snoozing far too long on the job. It's the reluctant culture of mañana at its finest.

On political self-preservation

The late Professor Kirk Russell (an author who's written books on first principles) once wrote about economics versus politicians. Said he, "Politicians often do not know what they are doing--they have studied neither history nor economics and frequently have little or no marketplace experience (this is especially true today as politicians find electoral employment a good career choice). But often they are dazzled by what they can be...consuming their own vainglorious and fatal conceit. The consequence is that the country pays for ignorance when it is forced to operate an economic engine on empty rhetoric.

"On the administrative side of governance, bureaucrats commonly look upon the alleviation of society's "ills" (many of which are not universally viewed as problems) solely as their mission—not in any fashion the obligation or opportunity of either the individual or the community. They rarely find an occasion to help foster personal initiative or private assistance, especially if they can create some administrative mechanism that will serve as a substitute for these options. They allow, by their very actions, palpable distortions of government purpose to arise.

"Practically speaking, if bureaucracies actually solved problems, those employed there might work themselves out of a job--clearly not something in the bureaucrat's best interest. Instead, if their franchise begins to wane, bureaucrats tend to seek out or invent additional areas of need so government can provide another "service" which then justifies their continued employment.

"When programs found ineffective are reduced by executive or legislative authority, bureaucrats (and their private sector partners) often attempt to achieve through the obscurity of regulation and/or stark administrative power that which they could not win in the political arena. Or they simply ignore what they've been told by the electorate and find ways to do what they 'know' to be right by expanding other facets of their franchise.

"Ultimately, the primary difficulty with government programs is there is no market discipline. When bureaucracies fail they don't face bankruptcy or liquidation, they use their failure to push for bigger more intrusive programs (a program's small size or the inadequate reach of the bureaucrat's power being used to excuse their failure to achieve results in line with their enabling legislation). Of course, politicians and bureaucrats don't spend their own money--thus accountability on either the practical or intellectual level is not part of their fiscal equation.

"Most importantly, the philosophy and repercussions of governmental good works that seek immediate relief for the downtrodden are invariably not followed to their logical conclusion. Oftentimes these emotionally satisfying but socially and economically inappropriate impulses are found to do more harm than good." Would we see real takers with credentials or just another bunch of recycled imbeciles?

Eisenhower, master of the Middle East

By DAVID A. NICHOLS
Los Angeles Times

David A. Nichols is an authority on the Eisenhower presidency and the author of the just-released book "Eisenhower 1956: The President's Year of Crisis—Suez and the Brink of War." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Middle East will undoubtedly continue to be unstable. Its legacy of colonialist exploitation, badly drawn borders, decades of power struggles, the scramble for oil and, since 1948, the Arab-Israeli conflict has ensured a rocky future. For every American president, the question is not whether but when and where the next Middle East crisis will erupt.

As President Obama considers his options in the region, which president should he look to as a model for effective leadership in the Middle East? Ronald Reagan is the favorite of pundits these days, but Reagan's actions in the Middle East bordered on disastrous.

Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Reagan landed a token military force that set the stage for the deaths of 241 U.S. Marines in a terrorist attack on their U.S. barracks at the Beirut airport. He climaxed a confusing policy toward Libya with a two-day bombing campaign in 1986 that left Moammar Gadhafi in power stronger than ever. Reagan betrayed his own policy of not bargaining with terrorists when his administration sold antitank and antiaircraft missiles to Iran to secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon, and then used the proceeds to secretly arm the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

A better president to emulate is Dwight D. Eisenhower. Like every president since World War II, Ike confronted the unexpected in the Middle East, but he was ready, having hammered out his principles and priorities in advance. Eisenhower captured his approach in a maxim: "Plans are worthless _ but planning is everything." His planning process examined multiple contingencies and meticulously defined policy goals so that he, as president, could "do the normal thing when everybody else is going nuts."

In 1956, Eisenhower confronted the most dangerous international crisis of his presidency. The trigger was Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal that July. Two-thirds of the oil for Western Europe transited the canal. To the British and French, its seizure was calamitous. As they prepared for war, Eisenhower refused to permit his historical allies or Israel to dictate American policy. Instead, he defended Egypt's right to nationalize the canal and pushed for a peaceful solution.

On election day, Nov. 6, 1956, Eisenhower faced a perfect Middle East storm. Nine days earlier, without consulting Ike, Israel had attacked Egypt, and British and French forces had followed suit days later. The previous day the Soviet Union, fresh from the bloody repression of a revolt in Hungary, had threatened to intervene in the conflict. In response, Eisenhower sternly warned the Soviets against such action and placed American forces on alert.

Throughout the crisis, Eisenhower courageously denied desperately needed cash and petroleum to the allies, saying they could "boil in their own oil" until they agreed to a cease-fire and withdrawal from Egypt. Remarkably, on election day, he won re-election by a landslide and secured an end to the fighting.

After the Suez crisis, Eisenhower persuaded Congress to pass a program of economic and military aid to Middle East nations. In the Eisenhower Doctrine, the president committed the United States to replacing Britain as the guarantor of stability and security in the Middle East. That obligation remains the cornerstone of American policy.

Ike abhorred token, fragmented military operations like Reagan's, contending that any military intervention should employ overwhelming force. Lebanon provides a useful comparison. Unlike Reagan's botched operation in 1982, Ike implemented his doctrine by landing 14,000 troops in Lebanon in 1958 in a virtually bloodless show of force.

Above all, Eisenhower embraced the tides of history. He pressed America's allies to bury the corpse of colonialism in the Middle East. Today, we need the equivalent _ a rigorously defined, clear-headed commitment to democratic movements that avoids the adhocracy of Reagan and his successors.

As Ike said, and as is inscribed on the wall of the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kan.: "The United States never lost a soldier or a foot of ground during my administration. We kept the peace. People ask how it happened—by God, it didn't just happen."

WAR

From Page 10

threatened. Realists say that moral concerns should generally not play a substantial part in such decisions and that humanitarian interventions tend to backfire. A classic realist war is one fought in self-defense or in response to an attack such as 9/11.

"Just war" theorists, on the other hand, offer a different set of criteria for judging the rightness of going to war. Among other things, they argue that the goals must justify the death and destruction that will inevitably follow; that there must be more at stake than mere self-interest; that other means of achieving the same aim must first be exhausted, making military action the last resort; and that there must be a reasonable chance of success.

Here's a third way of thinking about what kinds of wars are justified: In 2006, the United Nations officially adopted a doctrine known as the "responsibility to protect." Under R2P, as it's known, the international community has the responsibility to protect populations from atrocities—including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity—and if peaceful means are unsuccessful, the doctrine holds, the world is justified in taking other forms of "collective action" to stop those crimes.

We see a bit of wisdom in all three approaches. Too often, the debate over intervention careens between isolationists who oppose any war, hawks who relish the use of American force and realists who see no use for humanitarianism. Sound strategy lies between those ideological absolutes.

We tend to agree with Richard Haas, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, that there are "wars of necessity" _ in which vital national interests are at stake _ and "wars of choice," which are not inherently good or bad but which must be undertaken only if they can reasonably be expected to accomplish more than they will cost.

Obviously, there should be a much higher bar for wars of choice than for wars of necessity, and wars of choice should be waged with the broadest possible support from the international community. But though they should be rare, wars of choice for humanitarian purposes should not be ruled out. The world community does have an obligation to protect those in the most dire circumstances; genocide, for example, must not be tolerated on grounds of "national sovereignty" or merely because its victims are people of another color or culture in a distant part of the world.

In Libya, the decision is relatively easy. Disgusted as we are by Gadhafi's brutal tactics, dismayed as we are by the death of Libyans fighting for a democratic alternative, this is not genocide or anything like it. The United States should offer what support it can, from delivering humanitarian aid to the rebels to blocking communications systems to toughening up the embargo. But Libya today doesn't meet the test for military intervention.

If military action doesn't become necessary in Libya, it surely will become necessary somewhere else, some other time. The United States needs to preserve the option of using force to right wrongs when necessary and justified, but it must also remember that violence begets violence and that the cost of war—even in a humanitarian cause—can be too high to pay.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

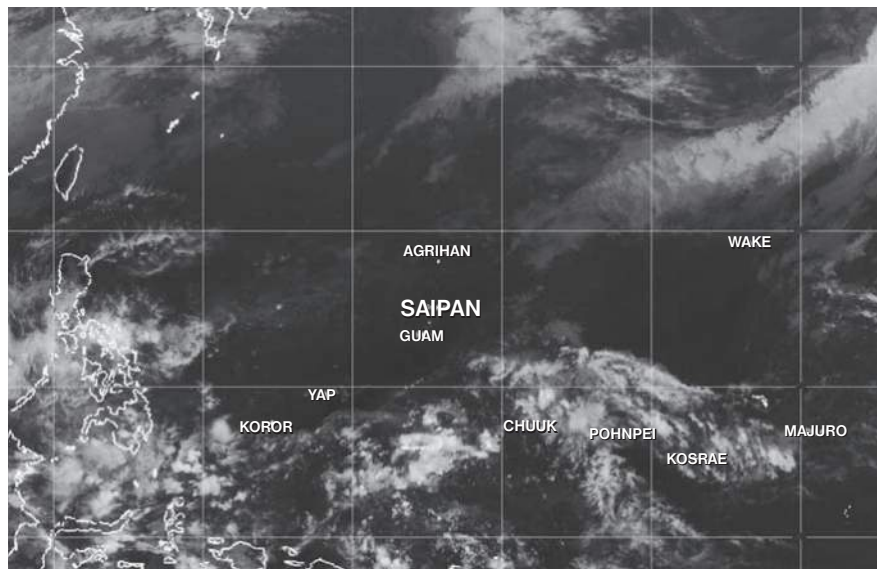
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼34
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼39
Osaka	Showers	▲44	▼38
Paris	Sunny	▲63	▼44
Pusan	Windy	▲51	▼33
Rome	Rain	▲63	▼49
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼44
San Francisco	Rain	▲62	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼28
Tokyo	Windy	▲51	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Showers	▲54	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends west-southwestward from 25N172E to 21N154E. Clouds and scattered showers are found north of Wake Island along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. Convergent low-level winds are producing scattered showers west and southwest of Koror or west of a line from EQ134E to 10N132E. A surface trough southeast of Yap extends northeastward from 3N138E to 7N147E. Scattered showers are present within 120 miles of the trough axis. Another surface trough extends northeastward from west of Pohnpei at 6N153E to 10N158E. Scattered showers are found near Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 10N150E to 5N156E to 8N163E to 15N154E back to 10N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Kosrae and Majuro or between 3N and 8N from 163E to 177E and also east of Wake Island between 13N and 22N from 168E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:55 PM	2:14 AM
Wednesday	2:55 PM	3:05 AM
Thursday	3:55 PM	3:54 AM
Friday	4:56 PM	4:42 AM
Saturday	6:59 PM	6:16 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Ex-trustee of Hillblom's son also files complaint vs Guam attorney

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former trustee of JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillbroom), one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom, has filed a complaint in federal court against Guam lawyer David J. Lujan.

Keith A. Waibel filed on Friday a third-party complaint against Lujan, who along with Santa Barbara, California-based lawyer Barry Israel, selected him to be trustee of the JLH Trust.

Waibel, who is based in Morro Bay, California, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award him indemnity and contribution on his third-party complaint, including attorney's fees, fees, and disbursements, against Lujan who "may be found liable" in Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Lujan and Israel served as counsels for Hillbroom during Hillblom's probate in the CNMI Superior Court.

Saipan Tribune Monday asked comment from Lujan, but as of press time he had yet to reply.

Hillbroom has sued Israel in federal court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings. Waibel was also named co-defendant in the lawsuit for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations. Through lawyers Robert T. Torres and G. Patrick Civille, Waibel filed in federal court on Feb. 25, 2011 a cross-claim against Israel.

Waibel's cross-claim against Israel and his cross-complaint against Lujan have the same allegations. Attorneys Torres and Civille also filed the cross-complaint as counsel for Waibel.

Torres and Civille stated in the third-part complaint that Lujan and Israel obtained approximately $38 million in fees and costs from JLH by increasing their contingency fee without Hillbroom's knowledge.

Torres and Civille said that, in 1999, Lujan and Israel executed the JLH Trust and settlement of trust, and arranged to have all of Hillbroom's interest in the Hillblom estate assigned to the JLH Trust.

Lujan and Israel then selected Waibel to be the trustee of the JLH Trust, a financial trust registered in the Cook Islands.

Waibel managed and operated the JLH Trust out of Morro Bay, California.

Torres and Civille said Lujan and Israel forced him to sign the 1999 retainer to increase contingency fees to the two lawyers from 38 percent to 56 percent.

Lujan on his part, sued Waibel and other co-defendants in Guam. Lujan alleged that Waibel and others in an effort to deflect attention from the losses he caused the JLH Trust, developed a scheme to blame Lujan for the poor state of the trust.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan on May 21, 1995. He left an estimated $550 million to $700 million in assets.

By the end of 1997, Hillbroom was established through DNA as Hillblom's son, entitling to 15 percent of the $550 million estate, or approximately $90 million before taxes.

Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy Workshop III set

The Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy will host the third series of workshops on March 18-19, 2011 in Room D-1 at the NMC As Terlaje campus on Saipan.

Registration begins at 7:30am with instructional activities to follow from 8am to 4pm on both days.

The MGA workshops are aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops will cover various topics such as reproductive management, planning and artificial insemination, replacement heifer selection criteria, production risk management, ranch planning and monitoring, meat goat management, pastured poultry management, and more. The workshops will also include farm visits, demonstration sites and field activities.

During the workshop, the MGA team will also provide information on the upcoming Slaughterhouse Feasibility Study workshop in May. For more information on the study, interested individuals can visit http://www.agenergy-enterprises.com/feasibility/index.html.

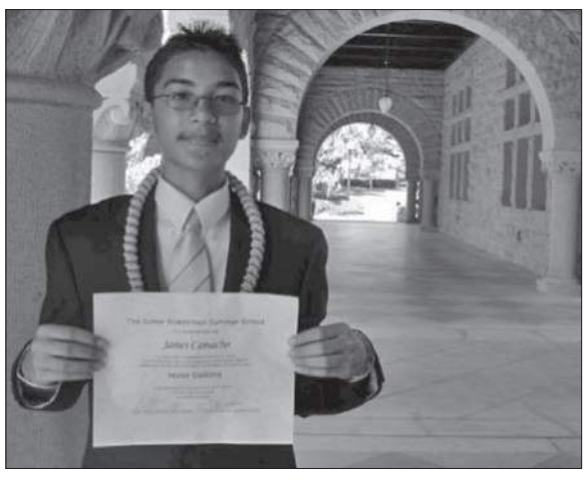
The academy is a project organized through a collaborative effort between the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (NMC-CREES) Livestock Improvement Program, and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam. The goal of the Academy is to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

The academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

For more information on the workshops, contact NMC-CREES Outreach Coordinator Claus Bier at 234-5498 ext. 1707, NMC-CREES staff Lawrence Duponcheel or Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-0639 on the NMC Tinian Instructional Site, or Alejandro Badilles at 532-9513 at the NMC Rota Instructional Site. There are no registration or participation fees.

For additional information on the Marianas Grazing Academy, visit marianasgrazingacademy.org.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program (Grant #2009-51200-19601). ***(NMC)***



HONOR SOCIETY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to James Camacho who recently was accepted to the National Society of High School Scholars. Camacho is a senior at Saipan Southern High School, where he is a member of the Manta Ray Band and book club as well as an officer for the National Honor Society.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Michelle Ngirbabul who is celebrating her birthday today, March 16. Hoping and wishing you have an awesomely great and fantastic day and that all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Much love from all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Managaha gets green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has assigned all of the sampled beach sites on Managaha Island a green flag.

This after the none of the samples collected from the island's sites contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

Chamorrita research, cultural centers topic in *John Gonzales Live*

Chamorrita Research & Cultural Centers on Rota and Saipan will be the topic in this week's *John Gonzales Live*.

Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw (IAKN/MSKAF) officials Isidoro T. Cabrera, president; Manny F. Borja, ANA grant project director; and staff Carmen S. Taimanao, Rosa Warakai, Jose Roppul, Lino Olopai will be the guests of the program.

John Gonzales Live airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday and Monday all from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN Ch. 2

The program also rebroadcasts worldwide on the web to global internet radio listening audience on BETELNUT Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 12 noon Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam). Betelnut Radio.....Spitting the music without staining the airwaves!

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary School PTSA meeting

Kagman Elementary School will hold its seventh PTSA meeting today in the school cafeteria at 6:30pm. Important matters will be discussed. Please make time to attend. If you have any questions or concerns please call us at 664-3911/12. ***(PR)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/12 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/10 Thu	3/8 Tue	3/5 Sat	3/18 Fri	3/14 Mon	3/13 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/14 Mon	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	3/19 Sat	3/17 Thu	3/17 Thu	3/15 Tue	3/12 Sat	3/25 Fri	3/21 Mon	3/20 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/21 Mon	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	3/29 Tue
MELL SILOSO	019E	3/26 Sat	3/24 Thu	3/24 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/19 Sat	4/1 Fri	3/28 Mon	3/27 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/28 Mon	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	053E	4/2 Sat	3/31 Thu	3/31 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/26 Sat	4/8 Fri	4/4 Mon	4/3 Sun	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	4/4 Mon	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	4/12 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	019E	4/9 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/7 Thu	4/5 Tue	4/2 Sat	4/15 Fri	4/11 Mon	4/10 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/11 Mon	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue
MELL SILOSO	020E	4/16 Sat	4/14 Thu	4/14 Thu	4/12 Tue	4/9 Sat	4/22 Fri	4/18 Mon	4/17 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/18 Mon	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/26 Sat	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	SKIP	3/30 Wed	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/8 Fri	4/9 Sat	4/14 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/17 Sun	4/13 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	4/2 Sat	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue	4/6 Wed	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/15 Fri	4/16 Sat	4/21 Thu	5/10 Tue	4/24 Sun	4/20 Wed
MELL SILOSO	019E	4/9 Sat	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/13 Wed	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	SKIP	4/22 Fri	4/23 Sat	4/28 Thu	5/17 Tue	5/1 Sun	4/27 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	053E	4/16 Sat	4/17 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue	4/20 Wed	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	SKIP	4/29 Fri	4/30 Sat	5/5 Thu	5/24 Tue	5/8 Sun	5/4 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	019E	4/23 Sat	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	SKIP	4/27 Wed	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/6 Fri	5/7 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/15 Sun	5/11 Wed
MELL SILOSO	020E	4/30 Sat	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/3 Tue	5/4 Wed	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/13 Fri	5/14 Sat	5/19 Thu	6/7 Tue	5/22 Sun	5/18 Wed

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Business

Nuclear crisis whacks stocks in Japan, across Asia

BANGKOK (AP)—Japan's Nikkei stock index nose-dived more than 12 percent Tuesday as the earthquake-shattered country faced an unfolding nuclear crisis after a radiation leak was detected at a crippled power plant. Other Asian markets also tumbled.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average sank a staggering 1,201.2 points, or 12.5 percent, to 8,422.21 in afternoon trading, extending losses of 6 percent Monday—the first trading day since a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck the northeastern coast, washing away towns and killing more than 10,000 people.

The broader Topix lost 13 percent, while other Asian markets were sharply down, suffering a ripple effect.

The stock sell-off hit nearly every business sector, with electric companies under intense pressure again. The Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the crippled nuclear plant, was overwhelmed with sell orders and had yet to trade. Toshiba Corp., a maker of nuclear power plants, was also untraded.

Other companies with nuclear power-related businesses faced a second day of free-falling losses. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries tumbled 19 percent, Kobe Steel Ltd. dived 17 percent, and Hitachi Ltd. shed 8.5 percent. Cosmo Oil, whose refinery caught fire after the quake, slid by 18 percent.

Car makers declined partly because quake-stricken northeastern Japan is a major center for auto production, complete with a myriad of parts suppliers and a network of roads and ports for efficient distribution.

Major vehicle manufactures halted production after the quake, and their shares continued to capsize. Toyota Motor Corp., the world's largest automaker, fell 11 percent. Honda lost 7.4 percent and Nissan dropped 10.2 percent. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. lost 14.4 percent and truck-maker Isuzu Motors Ltd. plunged 8.6 percent.

Fears about the safety of nuclear power weighed on the shares of companies involved in uranium mining. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd., one of the world's largest uranium producers, fell 13.2 percent in Sydney.

Even the rare stocks that did well Monday—industrial and materials companies, which gained due to expectations that they would benefit when Japan rebuilds—tumbled Tuesday.

Japanese construction company Kajima Corp. dropped 19 percent and Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd. skidded 27.2 percent. Analysts said that while the Japanese economy remained virtually shut down, companies in China and elsewhere could fill the void.

Throughout Asia, investors fled stocks as the crisis in the world's No. 3 economy seemed only to escalate. South Korea's Kospi was down 3.4 percent to 1,903.21, and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 2.7 percent to 4,500.20.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slumped 3.8 percent to 22,449.60, and mainland China's Shanghai Composite Index lost 2.1 percent to 2,874.63.

On Wall Street Monday, concerns over the economic impact of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan led to a broad sell-off. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 51.24, or 0.4 percent, to 11,993.16.

Hawaii becomes first state with $4 gas average

HONOLULU (AP)—Americans are feeling the pain at the pump. In Hawaii, the sting just got a little worse.

The state reached the dubious milestone Monday of being the first in recent years where the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline has reached $4, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Report.

The Aloha State's average of $4 per gallon is the highest in the nation, beating California's average of $3.96. Alaska has the third highest average price at $3.90.

"Of course I'm not happy about it at all, but no one is," said Irma Lai, who was filling up her small SUV at a Big Island gas station that was charging $4.22 a gallon. "What the hell can I do? I have to drive. I can't walk everywhere. I use a cane."

Lai isn't the only one upset, and some are beginning to worry that consumers' increased spending on gasoline won't leave enough for other spending to fuel the nation's economic recovery.

"$4 is definitely a psychological mark," said Marie Montgomery, spokeswoman for the Automobile Club of Southern California, which covers Hawaii.

She said many stations have avoided changing their price signs, hanging onto the 3s as long as possible.

"I'm seeing in California, a lot of gas stations are almost like they're afraid to put that 4 on there," she said. "Nobody wants to be the first."

Some cities have already hit a $4 average, including San Francisco, but Hawaii is the first state to reach the mark since 2008. The area tracked by AAA in Hawaii with the highest average was the Wailuku area of Maui, where the average Monday was $4.24.

Jordan Kaneshiro, who pumps gas at Shige's Service Station in the rural Hawi area of the Big Island, said customers aren't happy about the high prices.

"I pumped $100 today for one guy," Kaneshiro said. "The guy wanted a discount."

The national average for regular unleaded was $3.56 a gallon, up a nickel from a week ago and 43 cents higher than a month ago. Wyoming had the cheapest gas in the nation, averaging $3.27.

Oil prices have been surging in recent weeks because of the unrest in Libya that has forced that country to shut down its oil fields, which had been producing about 1.6 million barrels of crude per day. The squeeze on world supplies and concern that uprisings could spread across the Middle East helped push oil prices about 24 percent higher in the past few weeks.

Gasoline pump prices in the U.S. followed oil sharply higher and are still the most expensive ever for this time of year.

According to AAA, $4 gas prices haven't been seen since 2008, when oil prices skyrocketed well above $100 a barrel. Hawaii hit $4 for the first time on May 23, 2008, and stayed above that mark until Oct. 12, 2008. During that summer, the 50th state hit its high of $4.50.

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Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan	Garapan Elem. School
Saipan Grand Hotel	Saipan Community School
Tan Siu Lin Foundation	Dandan Elementary School Grace Christian Academy Green Meadow School Joeten-Kiyu Library Kagman High School Koblerville Elementary School Saipan International School Saipan Southern High School Library

If your company wants to participate in our program,
please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-OHS-051

SUBMISSION: APRIL 18, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI'S GUMA HUSTISIA (COURTHOUSE)"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 28, 2011 AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA (COURTHOUSE). **FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MANDATORY SITE VISIT SHALL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE OFFEROR.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
ACTING SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. New Asset Allocation Transition Update

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Wilshire Conference

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nation

Calif. official: Tsunami damage upward of $40M

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)—In the tsunami-battered harbor of this coastal city famous for its surf, Jody Connolly rubbed his red eyes as crews scrambled to pull his 30-foot Trident boat out of the water Monday afternoon.

The hardwood floor contractor had made the vessel his home for the past two years.

Connolly fled the boat when the first, powerful surge of Friday's tsunami rolled in. He watched from land as the boat broke from its moorings and sank while the entire dock crumbled.

"One moment I don't feel anything. The next, I'm completely torn up. It's kind of hitting me in waves, kind of like the tsunami," he said.

As residents like Connolly whose lives and livelihoods depended on the harbor tried to salvage what they could, a California official on Monday estimated that statewide damage from last week's surge exceeds $40 million.

Mike Dayton, acting secretary of the Emergency Management Agency, gave the estimate after touring Santa Cruz Harbor, where 18 vessels sank, about 100 were damaged and another 12 remained unaccounted for.

The damage in Santa Cruz Harbor alone is estimated at $17 million. The harbor is housing 58 commercial fishing vessels not able to leave the harbor for at least a week until it reopens, said Lisa Ekers, director of the Santa Cruz Port District. She said she was also working to get 60 people living on boats back into their homes.

Along the state's North Coast, officials at the heavily damaged Crescent City Harbor were still working on totaling the value of the damage. All told, 53 vessels were damaged, including 15 that sank, said Alexia Retallack, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Fish and Game.

The harbor, which provided berths for more than 100 boats, was virtually destroyed by the waves, she said, devastating the fishing industry in a town where the economy is largely dependent on the day's catch.

A federal team will be in Crescent City later this week to use special sonar equipment to map sunken boats in the harbor.

In Santa Cruz, sonar was already being used to search for missing vessels, and crews worked to pull sunken boats out of the water Monday. Divers jumped into the brown, oil-sheened water and attached inflatable pillows as big as their own bodies to the hulls, then pumped air in them to get the battered boats to float to the top.

Once the sludge-covered vessels made it to the surface, they were hauled ashore into a parking lot where the waiting owner would assess the damage.

Wis. unions rush deals ahead of bargaining law

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—School boards and local governments across Wisconsin are rushing to reach agreements with unions before a new law takes effect and erases their ability to collectively bargain over nearly all issues other than minimal salary increases.

The law doesn't go into effect until the day after Secretary of State Doug La Follette publishes it and it doesn't supersede contracts already in place, fueling unions' desire to reach new deals quickly. La Follette said Monday that he will delay publication until the latest day possible, March 25, to give local governments as much time as possible to reach agreements.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker had asked La Follette to publish the law Monday, but the Democratic secretary of state said he didn't see any emergency that warranted him doing so. La Follette opposed the bill and said he sat in his office watching parts of a weekend protest that brought as many as 100,000 people out in opposition to the law.

"This is the biggest change in Wisconsin labor management history in 50 years," La Follette said, describing his reasoning for holding off on its enactment.

The law ends collective bargaining for public workers over everything except salary increases no greater than inflation. It also forces state workers to make benefit concessions that amount to an 8 percent pay cut on average.

Walker also is proposing a nearly $1 billion cut in aid to schools in his two-year budget plan that would take effect in July. He argued that for that reason, districts needed to get more money from their employees to help mitigate the loss in aid. Walker also wants to limit the ability of schools and local governments to pay for the cuts through local property tax increases.

ACROSS THE NATION

Struggling states may cancel or delay primaries

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—In these tough times, even how we nominate presidents is facing the threat of the budget ax. Lawmakers and elections officials in at least six cash-strapped states are hoping to move or replace their stand-alone 2012 presidential primaries, sacrificing some influence over who wins the nominations in favor of saving millions of dollars. The moves to either delay primaries by several months or hand over the nominating process to party-run caucuses comes as Republican and Democratic parties implement new rules to limit the number of states voting before March 1.

Police: Bus crashes on NJ Turnpike; 1 critical

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—Police say a bus has crashed on a highway in New Jersey, critically injuring at least one person. State police Sgt. Stephen Jones says there are unconfirmed reports of two deaths. The one-vehicle crash happened on the New Jersey Turnpike on Monday night, just days after a bus heading into New York City crashed and killed 15 people. State police say Monday's crash of a luxury bus in East Brunswick has left several people with minor injuries. He says about 25 to 30 people were on the bus.

UCLA student posts video rant on Asians

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles said Monday he was "appalled by the thoughtless and hurtful comments" that a white student made about her Asian classmates in a video that has drawn national attention. Alexandra Wallace posted a three-minute rant on YouTube called "Asians in the Library," in which she criticizes the school for accepting "these hordes of Asian people" who she said have no manners and invite their extended family to visit on the weekends. The UCLA political science student also faulted Asian students for disrupting her studies at the library by calling family members in the wake of the tsunami. "I'll be in, like, deep into my studying, into my political science theories and arguments and all that stuff, getting it all down, like typing away furiously, blah, blah, blah, and then all of a sudden when I'm about to, like, reach an epiphany, overhear from somewhere, 'Oh ching chong ling long ting tong, ooohh," she said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN
2nd Annual Tinian Mayor's
Perpetual Cup
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort
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Show Time 10am
Tee Time 11am - Shot Gun Start
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Inclusive green fee, beverage at course, awards dinner at Coral Ocean Point (Poolside) after the game.
Format
Double Peoria Low net for the Perpetual Cup and also with their categories are Championship, A, B, C flight and ladies low gross
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Please call Tinian Mayor's Office ask for Allen Perez, telephone # 433-1800
or 1802 / Joe Dela Cruz at 285-4818 or Das Krishnan at 483-6405

Asia

Japanese ordered indoors in radiation leak crisis

SOMA, Japan (AP)—Radiation leaked from a crippled nuclear plant in tsunami-ravaged northeastern Japan after a third reactor was rocked by an explosion Tuesday and a fourth caught fire in a dramatic escalation of the 4-day-old catastrophe. The government warned anyone nearby to stay indoors to avoid exposure.

Tokyo also reported slightly elevated radiation levels but officials said the increase was too small to threaten anyone in the capital.

In a nationally televised statement, Prime Minister Naoto Kan said radiation has spread from four reactors of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Fukushima province, one of the hardest-hit in Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and the ensuing tsunami that has killed more than 10,000 people.

"The level seems very high, and there is still a very high risk of more radiation coming out," Kan said. "We are making utmost efforts to prevent further explosions and radiation leaks."

This is the worst nuclear crisis Japan has faced since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. It is also the first time that such a grave nuclear threat has been raised in the world since a nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine exploded in 1986.

Kan warned there are dangers of more leaks and told people living within 19 miles (30 kilometers) of the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex to stay indoors to avoid radiation sickness. Some 70,000 people had already been evacuated from a 12-mile (20-kilometer) radius and 140,000 remain in the zone for which the new warning was issued.

Three reactors at the power plant were in critical condition after Friday's quake, losing their ability to cool down and releasing some radiation. A fourth reactor that was unoperational caught fire on Tuesday and more radiation was released, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said.

The fire was put out. Even though it was unoperational, the fourth reactor was believed to be the source of the elevated radiation release because of the hydrogen release that triggered the fire.

"It is likely that the level of radiation increased sharply due to a fire at Unit 4," Edano said. "Now we are talking about levels that can damage human health. These are readings taken near the area where we believe the releases are happening. Far away, the levels should be lower," he said.

"Please do not go outside. Please stay indoors. Please close windows and make your homes airtight. Don't turn on ventilators. Please hang your laundry indoors," he said.

"These are figures that potentially affect health. There is no mistake about that," he said.

He said a reactor whose containment building caught fire Monday has not contributed greatly to the increased radiation. The radiation level around one of the reactors stood at 400,000 microsiverts per hour, four times higher than the safe level.

Officials said 50 workers were still there trying to put water into the reactors to cool them. They say 800 other staff were evacuated. The fires and explosions at the reactors have injured 15 workers and military personnel and exposed up to 190 people to elevated radiation.

In Tokyo, slightly higher-than-normal radiation levels were detected Tuesday but officials insisted there are no health dangers.

After tsunami, one village vanishes

SAITO, Japan (AP)—It's hard to believe there was ever a village here at all.

The tsunami that devastated Japan's coast rolled in through a tree-lined ocean cove and obliterated nearly everything in its path in this village of about 250 people and 70 or so houses.

Now, three days later, Saito is a moonscape of death and debris, a hellish glimpse into the phenomenal destruction caused by the killer wave that followed Japan's most powerful earthquake on record and one of the five strongest on Earth in the past 110 years.

In Saito and nearby areas, there is no electricity, no running water. There are no generators humming. The night is pitch black. The buildings still standing are closed. No stores are open. Everything has stopped.

"There is nothing left," villager Toshio Abe told The Associated Press on Monday as firefighters in bright orange and yellow emergency suits hacked through the vast wasteland with pickaxes, searching not for survivors but for the dead. Abe said at least 40 of Saito's people were dead or unaccounted for.

Abe said he was gardening Friday afternoon when he felt the earth shake under his feet. Tsunami sirens blared and a loudspeaker announcement warned people to get to higher ground.

The 70-year-old frantically climbed a hill behind his home about two kilometers, or roughly a mile, from the beach. From his safe vantage point, he watched as, 20 or 30 minutes later, the giant wave arrived with a thunderous roar.

It crashed through what appeared to be a two-story-high sea gate, then careened through the valley, following a two-lane road. He saw it rise up, over and through a bridge and smash into scores of houses, ripping most apart instantly. Other houses, he said, were pulled from their foundations and slammed together.

Hills on both sides channeled the wave another kilometer or so inland, depositing the broken wooden innards of Saito's homes along the road.

"I never thought a tsunami would come this far inland," Abe said. "I thought we were safe."

Abe pointed to a battered concrete foundation amid the flattened landscape. It was his own house. "I will rebuild it," he said, "but not here."

Today, everything in Saito is spoken about in the past tense.

"That was city hall," said 48-year-old construction worker Takao Oyama, gesturing toward a two-story white building that stood alone near the beach, leaning at an angle into a sheet of mud and sand.

"That was our elementary school," he said, pointing to a three-story building a few hundred yards away whose entire facade had been ripped off and was covered in black and yellow ocean buoys. Most everything else has disappeared.

"We struggled, but it is all gone," Oyama said. "Everything is lost."

Behind him, a tranquil tree-covered island could be seen just off the coast. That such violence could come from such a picturesque view seemed contradictory, hard to believe.

Dislocated Worker Funding Stream

U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien

Meet Selective Service Requirements

Have received the required Eligibility for services

Must be 18 years or older

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

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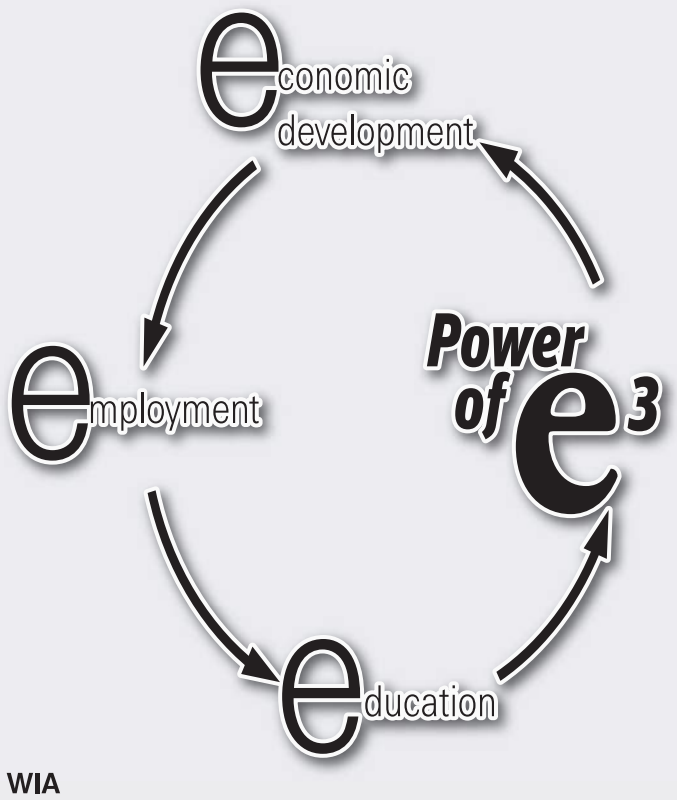

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World

Air and ground: Gadhafi, rebels each claim control

TOBRUK, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's warplanes, artillery and mortar shells can control huge swaths of territory by day, including oil ports, rebel supply routes and even hostile towns. Rebels say anti-government forces can still return in darkness to take advantage of Gadhafi's own thin supply lines and overstretched ground troops.

The eastern port city of Brega has gone back and forth with the setting of the sun in recent days and is key to the battle for Libya's oil centers—so key that both sides claimed control of it nearly simultaneously on Monday. The regime offensive appears to be hampered by a lack of manpower: They can drive out rebels with barrages, but not necessarily hold the territory.

Rebels, on the other hand, didn't dare come out in the open on Monday in Brega, with a spokesman saying they were taking cover instead in the industrial oil area where they believed Gadhafi forces wouldn't fire.

Brega and the city of Ajdabiya about 35 miles (70 kilometers) away again came under government bombardment on Monday, freshly exposing their importance as key crossroads for rebel supply lines, a main weakness in the Libyan region that contains most of its oil wealth. To get ammunition, reinforcements and arms to the front, they must drive along open desert highways, exposed to airstrikes. Gadhafi warplanes struck at least three targets Monday morning in Ajdabiya, missing a weapons storage site but hitting rebel fighters at a checkpoint in an attempt to stop supplies, rebels said.

An armed Libyan rebel chant anti-Gadhafi slogans during a demonstration for students of the faculty of medicine of the University of Qar Younis, in Benghazi, Libya Sunday, March 13, 2011.

AP

Oil installations—and the ports that allow Libyan crude exports—are just as key as supply lines, and so the government and rebels both went out of their way late Monday to claim victory in Brega at nearly the same time, with a state television reporter in the town going so far as to show the hour on his watch.

Production has been cut drastically since fighting began and new questions arose Monday about whether the OPEC member was still exporting crude at all. Marsa al-Harigah, the last major oil port firmly under rebel control, is not expecting another tanker for a month, said Rajab Sahnoun, a top executive with the Arabian Gulf Oil Co., and its two functioning storage tanks could be full soon, forcing a production shutdown.

The rebels have pleaded for the West to impose a no-fly zone. France and Britain stepped up calls Monday for other world powers to isolate Gadhafi, but other countries, including the United States, have been cautious about backing the rebels.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said NATO was drawing up contingency plans for a no-fly zone.

"Every day Gadhafi is brutalizing his own people. Time is of the essence," Cameron told the parliament in London. "There should be no let up in the pressure we put on this regime."

Meanwhile, fighting raged in Brega, said Abdul-Bari Zwei, a rebel spokesman. He said the rebels controlled the neighborhoods, but Gadhafi forces were pounding them with bombs from the air, land and sea. He said the rebels were hiding in parts of the industrial oil area, believing Gadhafi forces would hold fire there.

"They won't fire at the fuel trucks, they (Gadhafi's forces) need them," said Zwei.

Libya's east is home to roughly 70 to 75 percent of the country's reserves—the largest in Africa—and Gadhafi has every reason to try to regain control of the region quickly.

Government troops have scored victories using overpowering bombardments with artillery, tanks, warplanes and warships. Such an assault drove rebel fighters out of the oil port of Ras Lanouf several days ago.

After fleeing the bombardment Sunday, the rebels then pushed back into Brega in the evening and claimed to have captured dozens of fighters from Gadhafi's elite Khamis Brigade.

Saudi-led military force crosses into Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—A Saudi-led military force crossed into Bahrain on Monday to prop up the monarchy against widening demonstrations, launching the first cross-border military operation to quell unrest since the Arab world's rebellions began in December.

Opposition groups immediately denounced the intervention as an occupation that pushed the tiny island kingdom dangerously close to a state of "undeclared war."

Bahrain's majority Shiite Muslims see an opportunity to rid themselves of two centuries of rule by a Sunni monarchy. But Gulf Sunni leaders worry that any cracks in Bahrain's ruling system could threaten their own foundations. Protests are already flaring in Oman, Kuwait and even tightly ruled Saudi Arabia.

Gulf leaders are also concerned that political gains by Bahrain's Shiites might give Shiite Iran a stepping stone to its arch-rival Saudi Arabia, connected to Bahrain by a wide causeway.

Instead, the Saudis and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council sent forces the other way, deploying about 1,000 troops by land and air and cementing the entire six-nation alliance to the fate of Bahrain's rulers, who are key U.S. allies as hosts of the American Navy's 5th Fleet.

Shortly after word of the foreign military reinforcements began spreading through Bahrain, protesters blocked roads in the capital Manama. Thousands of others swarmed into Pearl Square, the symbolic center of the monthlong revolt.

"No to occupation!" demonstrators cried in the square.

The worries about Iran have persisted, even though there are no apparent links between Tehran and Bahrain's opposition.

"The Gulf leaders have tried to legitimize this. They portray it not as intervention in an internal Bahrain dispute, but rather as an action against an external threat," said Sami Alfaraj, director of the Kuwait Center for Strategic Studies.

In Tehran, authorities had no comment on the Gulf force moving into Bahrain. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi called on Bahrain to avoid using "violence and force," according to the semiofficial Fars News Agency.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney pointedly did not call on the Saudi-led force to withdraw.

"We are calling on the countries in the region to show restraint and pointing to the fact that the dialogue that can bring about political reform is essential for the stability of the countries in the region and their continued economic prosperity," Carney said.

It's not clear when Bahrain sought outside help. The rulers have faced a month of nonstop unrest that has left seven people dead and the country drifting toward open sectarian conflict.

There have been scenes of defiance and disobedience so unsettling that pro-government parliament members appealed to Bahrain's king to impose martial law. On Sunday, protesters paralyzed Bahrain's finance district with roadblocks and then stood their ground—and in some cases pressed forward—against riot police firing tear gas in Pearl Square.

A statement on the state-run Bahrain News Agency said troops from the GCC's Peninsula Shield Force have been deployed "in line with the principle of common destiny bonding." The bloc is made up of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The reason for the mission was "the common responsibility of the GCC countries in maintaining security and stability," the statement said.

The Peninsula Shield Force was created in the 1980s. Military units under a GCC command have been sent to Kuwait, including during the 1991 U.S.-led campaign to oust Saddam Hussein's force and in 2003 before the invasion of Iraq. The current action marks a significant shift to help a government quell internal unrest.

WORLD BRIEFS

Haiti candidates unfazed by Aristide's return

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's two presidential candidates on Monday dismissed concerns that the apparently imminent return of exiled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide would disrupt the election, despite a U.S. State Department warning that he could be a destabilizing presence. Candidate Michel Martelly, a singer known as "Sweet Micky," told reporters that he did not think Aristide would influence the vote, though he prefers that the former president wait "two or three days" and postpone his arrival until after the election. "He is welcome to come back like Jean-Claude Duvalier did," said Martelly, referring to the former dictator who made a surprise reappearance in Haiti in January. "I hope his return doesn't create instability for the elections." Mirlande Manigat, a university administrator and former first lady, expressed no misgivings about the return of Aristide, who has repeatedly said during his exile in South Africa that he wants to return home as a private citizen and work as an educator. Manigat seemed to even encourage him.

Ecuador sends aid to Galapagos following tsunami

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The Ecuadorean government has sent 6 tons of food and water to the Galapagos after the islands were hit by a tsunami from the massive earthquake off Japan. Ecuador's national emergency department says it shipped the aid Monday to 260 families on Santa Cruz and San Cristobal islands whose fishing boats—and livelihood—were destroyed. Water from the tsunami penetrated up to a third of a mile (a half-kilometer) inland in the Galapagos, causing minor damage to homes and docks, merging a lagoon with the sea. Police initially reported no major damages. The islands are located about 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) off Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. They are home to unique animal species that inspired Charles Darwin's ideas on evolution.

Yemen deports 2 American, 2 British journalists

CAIRO (AP)—Armed Yemeni security forces raided an apartment shared by four Western journalists Monday and deported them because of their coverage of a growing uprising against the country's longtime ruler, one of the reporters said. The journalists, two Americans and two Britons in their 20s, contribute to publications including the Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post. "They came into our apartment this morning and they told us all to come to the immigration office," said Oliver Holmes, 24, a Briton. "They sat us down and said, 'You're being deported.'" In the car on the way to immigration, the journalists were allowed to make phone calls. But their phones and passports were confiscated for hours while they were held at the immigration office and then as they packed up their apartment under the gaze of armed agents.

Focus

Disaster survivors recall moments of terror

TAGAJO, Japan (AP)—Masashi Imai wrapped his arms around the wheelchair that held his disabled wife and clung on with all his strength.

Their home lurched and swayed as the ground fell away. The power went out. Imai switched on his wire radio and heard the warning.

Then came the deluge.

Imai picked up his wife's limp body, cradled it and carried her to the second floor. "Father! Father!" screamed a girl from a neighboring house. Imai's wife, who has mental problems after two strokes, began to laugh.

Many of Imai's neighbors had nowhere to run, because their houses had only one story. Eventually, the girl's voice went silent.

In the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan, the line between life and death proved very thin—just one story high, in Imai's case, or little more than a bus length away from a wall of water. Even along the killing zone of the northeastern coast, some buildings and entire neighborhoods were spared while others were obliterated. The death toll was feared to be higher than 10,000.

On that fateful Friday, Ayumi Osuga was practicing origami with her three children, aged 2 to 6, in their single-story home in the coastal city of Sendai. At 2:46 p.m., the ground started to shake. Cups and plates fell from cupboards and shattered, but the damage seemed minor.

Then Osuga's husband called. "Get out of there now!" he yelled.

Chilled by the brusque warning, the 24-year-old factory worker quickly gathered her children into the car and fled to a hilltop home belonging to her husband's family 12 miles (20 kilometers) away. She managed to beat waves moving at the speed of a jumbo jet.

Safe on higher ground, Osuga's family spent the night listening to the radio. The darkness was lit only by candles, and the cold was bitter; some snow still lay on the hills around.

On Sunday, she returned with her husband and relatives to a home that was no more. Among the only things that had survived were three large packs of diapers. Tears in her eyes, Osuga stuffed the diapers, along with ruined bank documents and family photos, into backpacks.

Osuga was hoping the neighborhood had been spared any deaths. But just then, a team of firefighters with wooden picks appeared. One of them yelled out: "a corpse." Inside a house about 15 yards (meters) away, they found the body of a gray-haired woman lying under a blanket.

A few minutes later, the firefighters spotted another: It was Osuga's neighbor. Wearing a black fleece and black pants, he lay crumpled in a partial fetal position, hugging some cardboard debris, at the bottom of a muddy wooden stairwell inside his home.

The top of the house appeared almost mockingly untouched—with just two cracks in the white wall, and a small satellite dish still dotting the blue tiled roof.

Osuga knows she is lucky to be alive. "My family, my children ... I have come to realize what is important in life," she said.

As Osuga was playing with her children, Hisae Watanabe was examining watches on the second floor of the Loft department store in Sendai. She had come to Sendai for the day from Fukushima, one of hardest-hit cities, on business.

When the earthquake hit, everyone fell down. The glass in the watch cases shattered. The panic rose in Watanabe. Large pipes in the department store's ceiling began to come loose, swaying and banging into each other.

The staff was calm, used to earthquakes. They told everyone to run outside despite the danger of falling debris.

Watanabe ran out onto a walkway over the road. For some reason, there was a giant statue of the letter "P," poised at a funny angle. Everyone took pictures with their mobile phone cameras.

Then the walkway started swaying badly, and they ran down into the street. People screamed in the chaos. Watanabe spent the rest of the day trying to find shelter, and ended up passing a cold, hungry night at a railway station. She was waiting to return home when the trains started running again.

As she talked, the petite, 30-year-old woman sat alone on a cardboard sheet in Sendai's city hall, crowded with refugees who have nowhere else to go. She appeared haggard and shell-shocked.

Like Osuga, construction worker Yukou Ito was lucky enough to reach higher ground—barely.

Ito was at work about 40 minutes from his home near the harbor in Hachinohe when the earthquake struck. He returned in time to see a wall of rising water, which funneled cars and boats down the street toward him.

"It was terrifying. ... It looked like a foreign movie where everyone's running from something scary," he said.

Ito grabbed a credit card and jumped into his compact car. Through his rearview mirror, he could see the huge tsunami crashing down the street just behind him. A fishing boat was right behind him.

Now, several inches (centimeters) of water cover the floor at the entrance of his apartment, along with his ruined refrigerator, his microwave and a cabinet. A pile of muddy clothes soak in a large plastic bucket filled with water.

"I have to start over from square one," he says, lighting a cigarette and looking at the men in hard hats dragging debris and twisted metal out of buildings. Huge fishing boats were turned on their sides in the road like children's toys. "I've got absolutely nothing left."

Still overcome by emotion, Imai paces back and forth along the Sunaoshi river that runs through his small hometown of Tagajo, his knee-high wading boots scraping along the ground. Other dazed survivors roam the devastated streets.

As Imai remembers his older neighbors who likely died in their houses, he breaks into tears.

"This river has given us so much, but on Friday it brought disaster," said the 56-year-old, a former hotel worker who quit his job to care for his wife of 33 years. "Even now, when I sit or close my eyes, I still feel like it is shaking."

As he talked, the river's current switched directions and suddenly dropped several feet (a meter)—signs of another possible tsunami. A few minutes later came a small wave about a foot (30 centimeters), carrying oddly shaped debris.

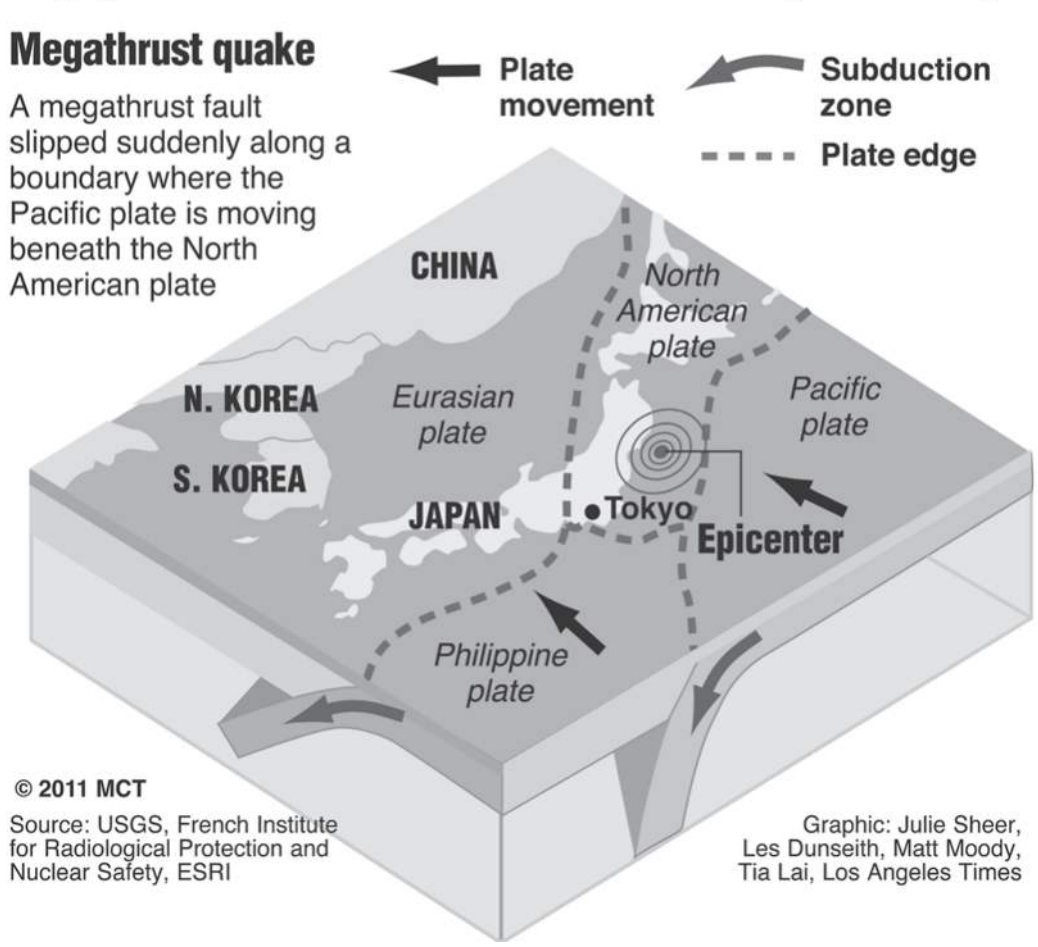
It spun and dipped as it slowly floated by.

AP

A family rests in a shelter in Soma city, Fukushima prefecture, Japan, Monday, March 14, 2011, three days after a massive earthquake and tsunami struck the country's north east coast. On top of the losses of family and friends along with property, evacuees in the area are now faced with the fears of radiation contamination from damaged nuclear facilities near by.

Shaking and flooding

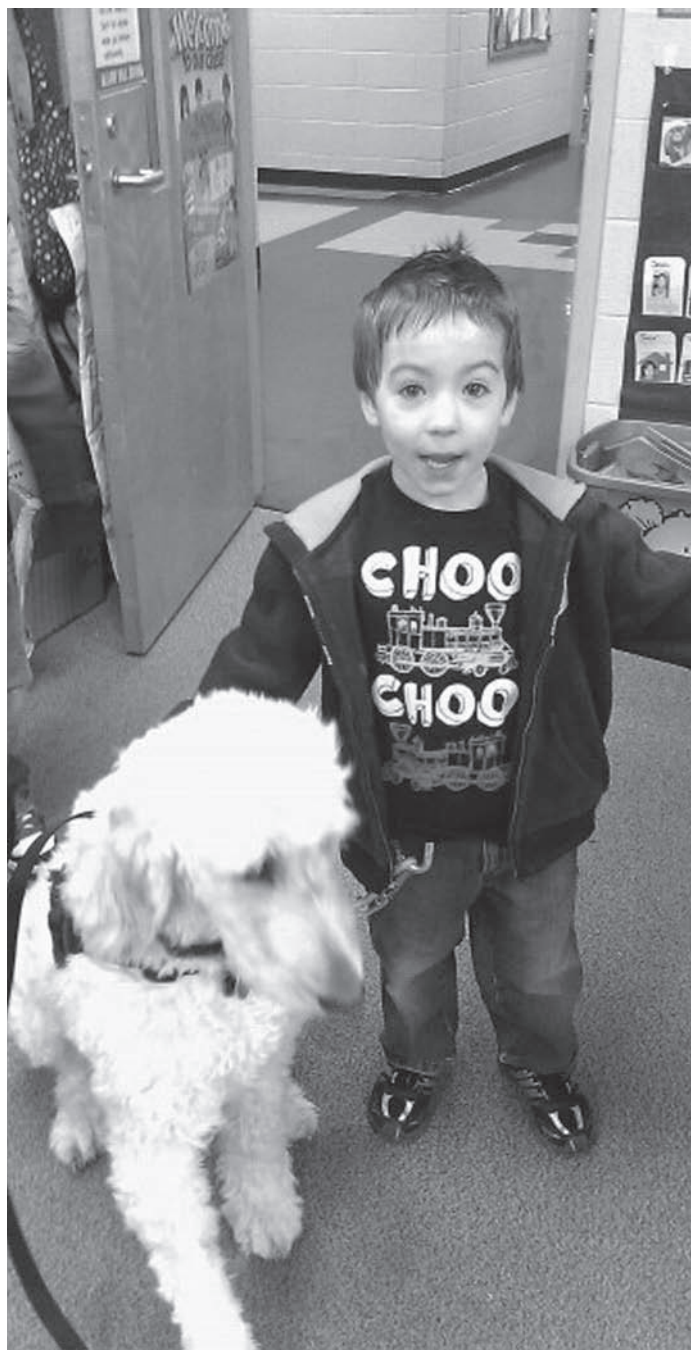
The 8.9-magnitude earthquake off the northeast coast of Japan occurred in a highly seismic subduction zone where several tectonic plates converge.



Campus Life

Parents of disabled boy sue, want school district to allow service dog

By CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS



MCT
Ayden Silva poses for a photo with his service dog, Chatham.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— A disabled boy and his dog are at the heart of a lawsuit claiming a North Carolina school district must allow the 4-year-old to bring his service animal to class.

Ayden Silva of Vale has disabilities caused by fetal alcohol syndrome. His dog, Chatham, is a Golden Retriever-poodle mix (or Golden Doodle) trained to calm Ayden's tantrums and prevent the boy from hurting himself. Such service dogs have long been associated with blind people but are increasingly used to treat symptoms of autism and other psychological disorders.

Service animals are widely accepted in schools and other public places, though it's unclear how common it is for such young children to rely on—and manage—service dogs.

Ayden's parents, who filed the federal lawsuit Monday, say without Chatham, their son can't learn in school. Barring the dog from school, they say, violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I sent my son to school with the tool that he needed to succeed," says mother Jennifer Silva. "I set him up for success and now he's being told that he can't use that tool."

Catawba County Schools officials Monday declined to talk about specifics of the case, which they say involves confidential student information. They said they "worked diligently" to meet Ayden's needs.

In a statement, the school system's attorney said: "Catawba County Board of Education is committed to the needs, rights and protection of all persons with disabilities and denies allegations that the school system has discriminated against this student."

Ayden was born with fetal alcohol syndrome and was adopted by the Silvas at 8 months old. He's hyperactive and has obsessive-compulsive tendencies. He also has wandered from the house at night.

When he becomes overstimulated, he has what his mother calls a "meltdown," crashing to the floor and repeatedly banging his head.

"Prior to Chatham, we did not leave home with (Ayden) for almost six months with the exception of doctors' visits and therapy visits," Jennifer Silva said.

"If any stranger said 'Oh, what a cute little boy,' it would send him into a meltdown. Fluorescent lights at Wal-Mart, even the automatic doors would send him into a meltdown."

The family tried several types of therapy with little success. Then Silva learned about service dogs' success with children like Ayden.

She contacted an Atlanta couple whose child also had problems related to fetal alcohol syndrome and improved after getting a service dog. The Silvas spent $7,500 to buy and train Chatham, who came into their home in Vale in September 2009.

Things got better for Ayden, his parents say. The boy had fewer meltdowns, according to the suit, and they weren't as severe. He began sleeping through the night.

And the Silvas began thinking their son could attend public school.

Last year, they enrolled Ayden in pre-kindergarten at Mountain View Elementary School, but school officials said the dog would have to stay home. A school spokeswoman declined Monday to describe the district's policy on service animals in classrooms, but an online policy manual says the system accords rights to students with disabilities as required by state and federal laws.

School officials met with Ayden's parents several times but were unable to reach an agreement. The lawsuit seeks an injunction allowing Chatham in classrooms and payment to reinforce the dog's training.

John Rittelmeyer, one of the Silvas' attorneys, said school officials suggested they are uneasy with a service animal being placed under the control of someone so young. They've also said Ayden's teachers and other school staff are trained professionals who can manage the boy's outbursts, Rittelmeyer said.

For now, the boy and his dog are separated for about seven hours a day. His mother worries Chatham will forget the training that has helped her son. And Ayden, she says, fears the dog will now leave the boy's life entirely.

"He literally sleeps holding the leash at night," Silva says.

Life & Style

Diamond, Cooper, Waits inducted into rock hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Waits went for laughs, Alice Cooper for shock value, Leon Russell was quietly humble and Neil Diamond may still be talking following their induction Monday into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The acts were joined New Orleans piano maestro Dr. John and "Wall of Sound" singer Darlene Love at the annual black-tie dinner at The Waldorf-Astoria hotel. A tape of the ceremony is to air March 20 on Fuse.

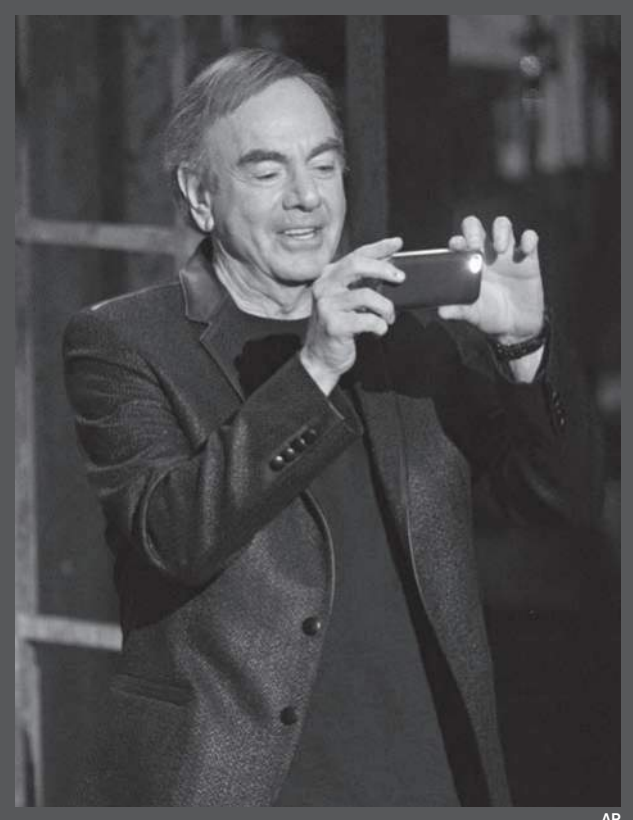
Diamond appeared jet-lagged for his induction: He said he flew 25 hours from Australia and is due to fly back there Tuesday to resume a concert tour. He took pictures of the audience and promised to "tweet this and tell everybody out there that they really do love me in the Hall of Fame."

He criticized Paul Simon, who inducted him, for giving his upcoming album a hard-to-remember title ("So Beautiful or So What"). He then called it a great album and jokingly asked Simon for money for the plug. Simon handed over a bill.

The Brooklyn-born Diamond wrote pop-rock hits for himself ("Solitary Man") and others (The Monkees' "I'm a Believer"). Presidential daughter Caroline Kennedy was the inspiration for "Sweet Caroline," now a Boston Red Sox anthem. Diamond settled into a comfortable career as a middle-of-the-road concert favorite, although he made some challenging recordings in recent years with producer Rick Rubin.

Simon noted that Diamond was first eligible for the rock hall in 1991.

"This has been 20 years," he said. "My question is, What took so long?"


AP
Inductee Neil Diamond takes a photo with his smartphone after accepting his award at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Monday, March 14, 2011, in New York.

Then he provided his own answer: "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," Diamond's duet with the un-rock 'n' roll Barbra Streisand.

Alice Cooper is the stage name for singer Vincent Furnier and his band, known for 1970s era hard rock songs "Eighteen," "No More Mr. Nice Guy" and "School's Out." Their concerts were steeped in horror movie theatrics, and singer Rob Zombie, in his induction speech, said they had invented the rock show.

Cooper, the singer, wrapped a huge snake around his neck for his induction and performed a trio of the band's hits in a shirt spattered with fake blood. A chorus of schoolchildren in gruesome black makeup joined them for "School's Out."

"We've always been a hard-rock band," Cooper said. "We just wanted to decorate it a little differently."

Zombie recalled how he painted a portrait of Cooper with dripping blood when he was in the fourth grade and asked to do an art assignment, drawing him some special attention.

Songwriter Waits is well-versed in blues, poetry and ballads, with songs rough and romantic. Several of his Hall of Fame predecessors have recorded his work, including Bruce Springsteen ("Jersey Girl"), the Ramones ("I Don't Want to Grow Up"), Rod Stewart ("Downtown Train") and Johnny Cash ("Down There By the Train"). Neil Young said Waits is "undescribable and I'm here to describe him."

Waits noted that his rock hall trophy was heavy and wondered if he could have a key-chain version "that I can keep with me in case I hear somebody say, 'Pete, take the cuffs off him. He's a Hall of Famer.'"

He described songs as "just very interesting things to be doing with the air.

"They say that I have no hits and that I'm difficult to work with," he said, "and they say that like it's a bad thing."

Russell composed "A Song for You" and "Delta Lady," but said he was in "a ditch beside the highway of life" when Elton John called a year ago and suggested they record an album together. The result was nominated for a Grammy.

Russell, with a shock of long white hair and beard, walked haltingly onstage with the help of a cane and met John for a warm embrace.

"Thank you very much," he said. "I appreciate it and Hallelujah."

Love, whose voice cut through Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound," called her induction into the hall her best 70th birthday present. She fought back tears in her acceptance speech, saying she had faith that the gift God gave her would sustain her for the rest of her life.

Love lent her powerful voice to several of Spector's hits, in acts such as the Crystals and Bob B. Soxx and the Blue Jeans. Her "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" is a holiday standard: She sang on U2's cover and performs it every December on David Letterman's show.

She was inducted with a comic ramble by Bette Midler, who said she was a goner when she first heard Love's voice on a transistor radio.

"Listening to her songs, you had to dance, you had to move, you had to keep looking for that rebel boy," Midler said.

Dr. John, born Malcolm John "Mac" Rebennack Jr., wore a bright purple suit for his big moment. He was inducted by singer John Legend, who recalled meeting him at a benefit for Hurricane Katrina relief. Legend said the new Hall of Fame member has been a leading global ambassador for New Orleans and its special musical gumbo.

"He has never stopped flying the flag of funk," Legend said. "Tonight, he is definitely in the right place at the right time."

That was a reference to one of Dr. John's best-known songs, "Right Place, Wrong Time," with Allen Toussaint and the Meters, which he performed as the ceremony slipped past midnight.

Elektra Records founder Jac Holzman and Specialty Records founder Art Rupe were also inducted in the non-performer category.

‘Battle: LA’ tops box office with $35.6 million

NEW YORK (AP)—The alien invasion sci-fi blockbuster “Battle: Los Angeles” conquered the box office with a $35.6 million debut.

Other new releases performed poorly. The gothic fairy tale adaptation “Red Riding Hood” took in $14 million, while Disney’s 3-D animated “Mars Needs Moms!” managed just $6.9 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. “Battle: Los Angeles,” Sony/Columbia, $35,573,187, 3,417 locations, $10,411 average, $35,573,187, one week.
2. “Rango,” Paramount, $22,602,847, 3,923 locations, $5,762 average, $68,206,101, two weeks.
3. “Red Riding Hood,” Warner Bros., $14,005,335, 3,030 locations, $4,622 average, $14,005,335, one week.
4. “The Adjustment Bureau,” Universal, $11,597,335, 2,847 locations, $4,074 average, $38,589,595, two weeks.
5. “Mars Needs Moms!” Disney, $6,914,488, 3,117 locations, $2,218 average, $6,914,488, one week.
6. “Beastly,” CBS Films, $5,021,232, 1,959 locations, $2,563 average, $16,911,633, two weeks.
7. “Hall Pass,” Warner Bros., $5,011,020, 2,555 locations, $1,961 average, $34,842,289, three weeks.
8. “Just Go With It,” Sony, $4,019,266, 2,398 locations, $1,676 average, $94,000,847, five weeks.
9. “Gnomeo and Juliet,” Disney, $3,617,255, 2,585 locations, $1,399 average, $89,102,365, five weeks.
10. “The King’s Speech,” Weinstein Co., $3,573,112, 1,768 locations, $2,021 average, $129,010,235, 16 weeks.
11. “Unknown,” Warner Bros., $3,366,339, 2,303 locations, $1,462 average, $58,410,845, four weeks.
12. “I Am Number Four,” Disney, $2,260,314, 2,005 locations, $1,127 average, $50,455,723, four weeks.
13. “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never,” Paramount, $1,378,830, 1,247 locations, $1,106 average, $70,955,641, five weeks.
14. “Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son,” Fox, $1,306,504, 931 locations, $1,403 average, $35,162,958, four weeks.
15. “Take Me Home Tonight,” Relativity Media, $1,272,239, 2,003 locations, $635 average, $5,891,092, two weeks.
16. “Cedar Rapids,” Fox Searchlight, $921,038, 394 locations, $2,338 average, $4,597,332, five weeks.
17. “Tangled,” Disney, $640,753, 363 locations, $1,765 average, $196,675,983, 16 weeks.
18. “The Fighter,” Paramount, $576,083, 463 locations, $1,244 average, $92,931,288, 14 weeks.
19. “Yogi Bear,” Warner Bros., $476,341, 404 locations, $1,179 average, $98,677,804, 13 weeks.
20. “Black Swan,” Fox Searchlight, $440,504, 337 locations, $1,307 average, $105,928,217, 15 weeks.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Columbia Pictures, a scene is shown from “Battle: Los Angeles.”

Aflac dumps duck voice actor for tasteless tweets

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP)—Aflac Inc. said Monday it has fired Gilbert Gottfried, the abrasive voice of the insurer’s quacking duck in the U.S., after the comedian posted a string of mocking jokes about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on Twitter over the weekend.

The tasteless tweets are particularly problematic for Aflac because it does 75 percent of its business in Japan. One in four homes in Japan buys health insurance from Aflac. The insurer’s CEO, Daniel Amos, flew to Japan on Sunday to show support for the company’s employees and agents.

Aflac said in a statement Monday that Gottfried’s jokes do not represent the feelings of the company, which previously announced it would donate 100 million yen ($1.2 million) to the International Red Cross to help with disaster assistance.

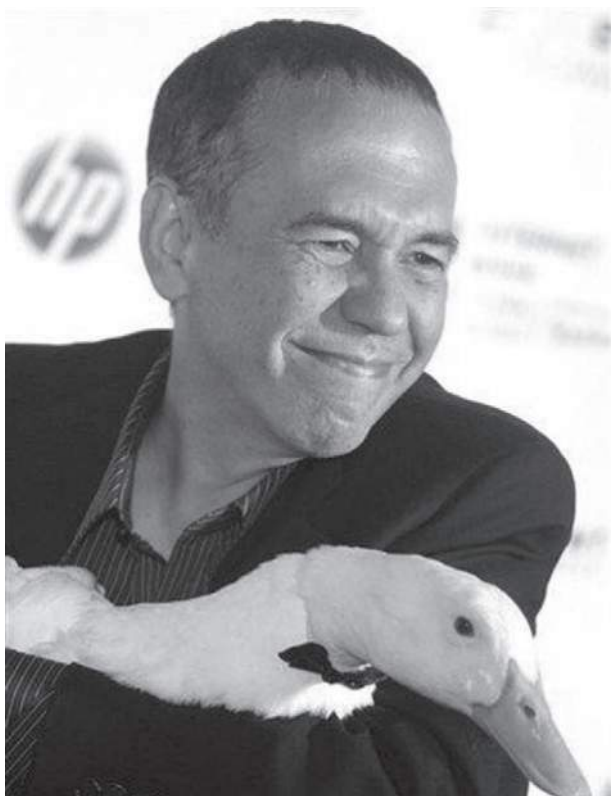
“There is no place for anything but compassion and concern during these difficult times,” Chief Marketing Officer Michael Zuna said.

The tweets in question were removed from Gottfried’s Twitter feed Monday after Aflac announced it would stop working with the comedian.

Gottfried has voiced the duck in numerous Aflac commercials since 2000. His career includes a run as a cast member on “Saturday Night Live” and a role as the voice of the parrot in Disney’s “Aladdin.” He has also recorded a 50-minute show of dirty jokes.

The insurer said it will start a casting search for his replacement. The company also noted that Gottfried is not the voice of the duck in Japan. Aflac’s mascot has a softer, sweeter voice in Japanese commercials.

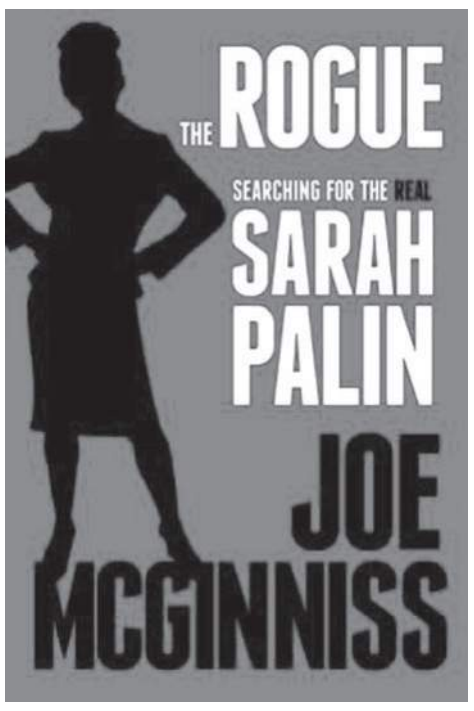
Aflac is gearing up for an influx of claims in the wake of the disaster, though it expects only a minimal financial impact to total results. The company, which has been doing business in Japan since 1974, said less than 5 percent of Aflac Japan’s new sales and in-force premiums come from the hard-hit Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures there.



In this June 14, 2010 file photo, Gilbert Gottfried arrives with the Aflac duck to the 14th Annual Webby Awards in New York.

AP

Palin Noir: Slick design for new Palin biography



AP

In this book cover image released by Broadway Books, “The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin,” by Joe McGinniss, is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—Call it Palin Noir.

Joe McGinniss’ upcoming biography of Sarah Palin has a cover design more fitting for a detective novel. It has a bold red, black and white color scheme and features a dark, defiant silhouette of the former Alaska governor, her hands on her hips.

The image was released Monday by Broadway Books, which this fall is releasing “The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin.” McGinniss, known for the classic “The Selling of the President 1968,” enraged Palin by moving next door to her in Alaska while researching his new book.

Oscar winner cleared in Batman cameraman’s death

LONDON (AP)—A British jury on Monday cleared an Oscar-winning special effects supervisor over the death of a cameraman during the making of “Batman: The Dark Knight.”

New Zealand-born Conway Wickliffe, 41, was killed when a vehicle he was filming from struck a tree during a test run for an action sequence near Chertsey, west of London, in Sept. 2007.

The jury at Guildford Crown Court took less than two hours to unanimously find Christopher Corbould, 53, not guilty of failing to ensure Wickliffe’s safety. Corbould looked relieved and could be heard breathing a sigh of relief as jurors returned their verdict clearing him of health and safety breaches.

Corbould’s lawyer Chris Humphreys said the special effects supervisor and his family were “tremendously happy with the decision of the jury.”

“We always thought from the beginning that this was an ill-conceived and misguided prosecution,” Humphreys said outside the court. “World class actors do not put their livelihoods and well-being in the hands of people that don’t put their health and safety first.”

Corbould—who won an Oscar for his visual effects work on “Inception”—had said he had followed safety procedures correctly and informed staff, including Wickliffe, of every detail of the stunt.

“I would never put someone in the position where they didn’t know every single detail of what’s going on. That’s inconceivable,” Corbould told the court. He said he had worked with Wickliffe, a father of two, for about seven years, and was devastated by his colleague’s death.

Prosecutors said Corbould should have more rigorously assessed the potential hazards of the stunt sequence.

The accident happened during the filming of a second section of action scene, following earlier work carried out in Chicago. Corbould said it involved a vehicle mounting a ramp and flipping over, with a second vehicle following close by to film the sequence.

The movie, released in 2008, paid tribute in its closing credits to Wickliffe and actor Heath Ledger—who played the Joker and died in January 2008 from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

Bill O’Reilly bolder and fresher with new book

NEW YORK (AP)—Yes, it’s possible: Bill O’Reilly is getting bolder and fresher.

The author and host of Fox News’ “The O’Reilly Factor” has signed with New York-based Henry Holt and Co. to write a sequel to his best-selling memoir “A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity.”

Holt announced Monday that “Bolder and Fresher: The Factor Years” will come out in the fall of 2012.

Holt president and publisher Stephen Rubin says O’Reilly’s fans will get “not only a behind-the- scenes look at their favorite TV show ... but also a deeper insight into Bill as one of today’s leading thinkers about our political and cultural landscape.”

O’Reilly has already committed to a book for this fall, “Killing Lincoln: The Assassination that Changed America Forever,” also coming from Holt.

Probation for woman arrested at DeGeneres home

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A woman who was arrested outside Ellen DeGeneres' home has pleaded no contest to misdemeanor trespassing.

Los Angeles County District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says Karen Grace Sjoden entered the plea during a hearing on Monday in Beverly Hills.

Sjoden was arrested early Feb. 10 outside the comedian and talk show host's home and had elected to represent herself. The 50-year-old has been jailed since then.

Robison says Sjoden will be placed on three years of informal probation and was ordered to stay 100 yards away from DeGeneres and her wife, actress Portia (POR'-shuh) DeGeneres.

Sjoden's plea and sentence were first reported Monday by celebrity website RadarOnline.com.

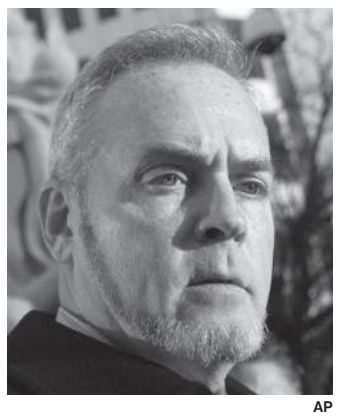
AP

In this Jan. 5, 2011 file photo, television personality Ellen DeGeneres, right, and actress Portia de Rossi arrive at the COVERGIRL Cosmetics' 50th Anniversary Party in Los Angeles.

TV's Hatch turns himself in to begin 9-month term

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Reality TV star Richard Hatch presented himself to U.S. marshals in Rhode Island on Monday to begin a nine-month prison sentence for failing to pay taxes on the $1 million he won on first season of the CBS show "Survivor."

Hatch arrived at U.S. District Court in Providence just after noon, wearing a blue sweatsuit. He told reporters outside the courthouse that he is innocent. He has appealed his case to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.



AP

In this Dec. 15, 2101 file photo, "Survivor" TV star Richard Hatch leaves federal court in Providence, R.I.

"I hope I'm released soon," Hatch said. "But this system is not effective in dealing with the truth. As always, I'll comply with whatever I'm asked to do and continue my pursuit of exoneration."

Hatch lives in Newport and currently is appearing on NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice." He spent three years in prison for tax evasion before being released in 2009 and was serving a three-year term of supervised release. During that period, he was supposed to refile his 2000 and 2001 taxes and pay what he owed, but he never did.

U.S. District Court Judge William Smith ordered Hatch back to prison last week. During that hearing, Hatch said he was working with an accountant to determine from the IRS what he still owed.

On Monday morning, Smith denied Hatch's request for more time before beginning his sentence.

Hatch now owes an estimated $2 million to the IRS, a figure that includes taxes on his "Survivor" winnings and penalties.

Achaari, Alem win Arabic fiction prize

LONDON (AP)—Moroccan author Mohammed Achaari and Saudi Arabian writer Raja Alem will share this year's International Prize for Arabic Fiction.

The chair of the judges, Fadhil Al-Azzawi, says both books deal with problems facing the Middle East. Achaari's book "The Arch and the Butterfly" describes how Islamic extremism and terrorism have destroyed Arabic society, while Alem's book, "The Doves' Necklace," describes the lesser known side of the Saudi city of Mecca.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony in Abu Dhabi on Monday. The prize was established in 2007 to recognize contemporary Arabic writing and is modeled on Britain's Man Booker Prize. It is managed in association with the Booker Prize Foundation in London.

The two authors will split the $50,000 cash prize between them, and will have their novels translated into English.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Celebs ask Obama to come out for same-sex marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An advocacy group says Anne Hathaway, Martin Sheen and Jane Lynch are among a group of actors, athletes and business leaders urging President Barack Obama to support marriage rights for same-sex couples. The New York-based group Freedom to Marry said Monday that R&B singer Mya, NFL linebacker Scott Fujita and Twitter founder Jack Dorsey also signed an open letter calling on the president to back gay marriage. Obama has said he supports civil unions as an alternative to marriage for gays and lesbians, and his views on the subject are evolving. His administration announced this month that it would no longer defend the federal law barring government recognition of same-sex unions. Freedom to Marry says several couples plan to deliver the letter to the White House in the spring.

Spokeswoman: Pregnant Jewel 'fine' after accident

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—A spokeswoman for Jewel says the pregnant country singer was involved in an auto accident but appears to be fine after being checked out at a hospital.

Nicole Perez-Krueger said in an e-mail Friday that hospital tests indicate that Jewel and the fetus are healthy.

The Texas Department of Public Safety says the singer and Erath County Commissioner Jim Pack were involved in the two-vehicle collision Friday at a rural intersection in Stephenville. The agency says Pack was driving a fire department truck with his lights and siren on while on his way to a grass fire.

Perez-Kreuger says the fire truck struck Jewel's vehicle. The accident is being investigated.

Jewel and her rodeo champion husband, Ty Murray, live in Texas.

Tribeca adds docs on Osbourne, Bartman to slate

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's Tribeca Film Festival will include documentaries on Ozzy Osbourne, a Tribe Called Quest and infamous Chicago Cubs fan Steve Bartman. The New York festival announced the second half of its lineup Monday, including those in its Spotlight and Cinemania sections, and the Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival. Documentaries have often found attention at Tribeca. Among them this year are "God Bless Ozzy Osbourne," "Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest," and Alex Gibney's "Catching Hell," about Bartman and the phenomenon of scapegoating. Narrative films added to the slate include movies with Jason Sudeikis, Orlando Bloom, Ryan Phillippe, and Don Cheadle. The Tribeca Film Festival, founded in 2001 by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff, runs April 20 through May 1.

Fox News hires ex-Ind. Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fox News Channel has hired former Democratic Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh as an on-air contributor. The network announced Tuesday it had hired Bayh to offer commentary and analysis across Fox News' programming ahead of the 2012 elections. Bayh left office in January after representing Indiana for two terms in the Senate. Bayh was considered a moderate within the Democratic Party and regularly appeared on Fox News as a senator. Since leaving politics, Bayh has also signed on as a partner at a law firm and was appointed a senior adviser to private equity firm Apollo Global Management.

Men lonely for companionship should learn how to please

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 67 and my roommate is 62. He and I could be out dating every night of the week. We get calls here like it is a fraternity house. I think it's because we know how to treat women.

I hear other men our age complain they can't get a date or find the "right" woman. They say they are lonely, always being "used," etc. I tell them: Get a life! Think of someone besides yourself.

My buddy and I think in terms of what would please the lady. Other guys think a romantic date is grabbing a bite at a fast-food restaurant, renting a violent movie, or flopping at the woman's house and falling asleep after she's made him a home-cooked meal. I say: Learn to dance, get some new clothes, ask a woman what her interests are. I did it, and I've learned to enjoy art shows, plays, visiting flea markets, etc.

A lady once told me, "You don't need a woman. You are a great cook, and you iron better than I do." My answer to her was, "Those are not the things I need a lady for."

So, Abby, my advice to lonely old men is this: Get your act together! As Auntie Mame said, "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death."

HAVING A PEACH OF A TIME IN GEORGIA

DEAR HAVING A PEACH: Thank you for your enlightened philosophy. My crystal ball tells me that neither you nor your buddy will ever be starving for food at the banquet of life—or attention and affection, either.

DEAR ABBY: What do you do when your future in-laws tell other relatives that they intend to ruin your upcoming wedding? They are upset because they were not included in the wedding party. My future mother-in-law let it be known she's dressing up like a hooker!

I have family members who are police officers coming to the wedding. The only idea I can come up with to prevent it is to ask them to guard the door of the church, and if need be, escort these unruly people out before they can raise a ruckus.

As you might have gathered, my fiance's parents don't want me to marry their son.

ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

DEAR ON THE VERGE: Take a deep breath and talk to your fiance about eloping. Once your in-laws accept the fact that the knot has already been tied, you can host a lovely reception. When the time comes, give them the benefit of the doubt and assume they'll behave themselves. Use the police only as a last resort, but if it comes to that, cross your fingers and hope your mother-in-law solicits one of them.

DEAR ABBY: At a cocktail party last night, the hostess handed me a glass of wine. When I started to take a sip, I noticed the glass was filthy. My immediate reaction was, "Alcohol kills germs." But the thought of putting the glass to my mouth was distasteful, so I told her the wine was "too sweet for my taste." She then handed me another glass of wine, and THAT one was as dirty as the first! How should I have handled it?

NOT CRYSTAL CLEAR IN WISCONSIN

DEAR NOT CRYSTAL CLEAR: The first time it happened, you should have said, "Oops! This glass didn't make it through the dishwasher" and returned it to your hostess. When it happened again, you should have said, "... this one, too." Then you should have asked for something you could drink from the original container. Sensible person that you are, I'm sure you didn't partake of the hors d'oeuvres, and won't be partying there again. Right?

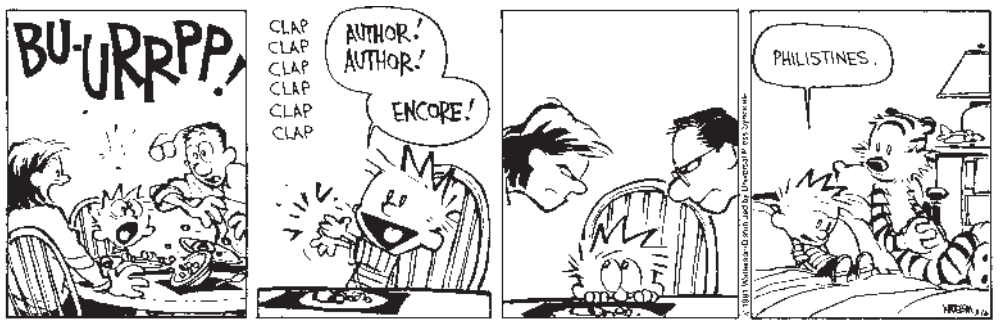
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

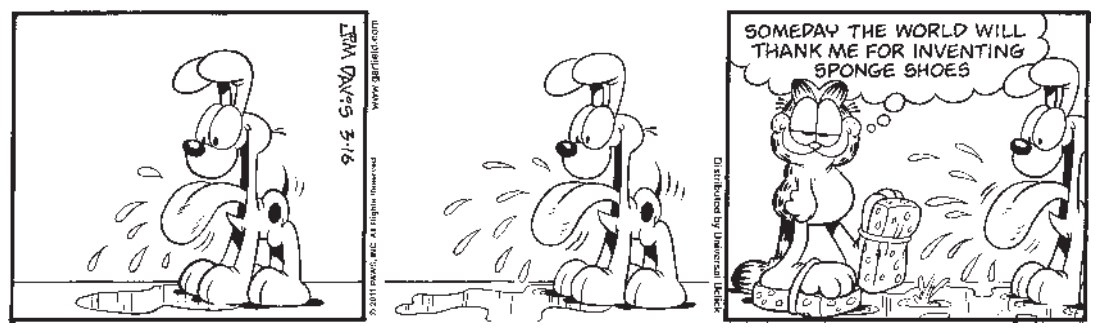
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



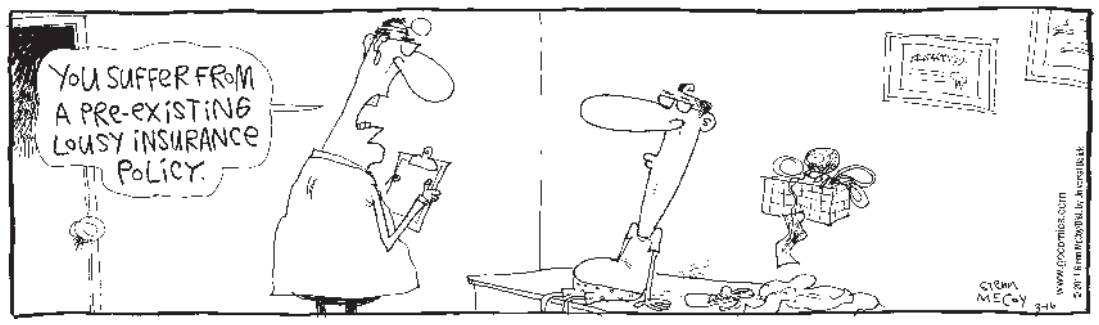
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU AND I SHOULD TAKE A LONG WEEKEND SOMEWHERE.
I CAN GET MY MOM TO WATCH THE KIDS.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME JUST THE TWO OF US GOT TO HANG OUT TOGETHER?
2002?
NO... I THINK IT WAS CLOSER TO 2001.
PERFECT! WE CAN CELEBRATE IT'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hurry
4 Rescue
8 Green Hornet's ally
12 Raw rock
13 Alternative to Windows
14 "— the Mood for Love"
15 Rowing tool
16 Bell tower
18 Crouch
20 Peculiar
21 Slapstick missiles
24 More mature
28 Asian country
32 Bigfoot's cousin
33 "The Greatest"
34 Cancels out
36 Once around the track
37 Bowling ball's pathway
39 Tea variety
41 Tuck, for one
43 Not crazy
44 Tit for —
46 Anticipate
50 Soft cheese
55 Travail
56 Smell
57 Met melody
58 Shock and —
59 Decisive time
60 — to riches
61 Sweet potato

DOWN
1 Menageries
2 Baghdad's land
3 Lima's land
4 Vacuum cleaners' force
5 Literary collection
6 Energy
7 World's fair
8 Sympathetic
9 "What Kind of Fool —?"
10 Up to
11 Indivisible
17 Bother
19 Police alert, for short
22 Cabinet dept.
23 Manner of fiction
25 Sandwich shop
26 Handy Latin abbr.
27 Ready for picking
28 Young bovine
29 Winged
30 iPod type
31 — mater
35 Some Beethoven works
38 Diner
40 Kitten's call
42 Lamb's pop
45 Ski-lift type
47 Vacationing
48 "The Music Man" locale
49 Abound
50 Massachusetts cape
51 Toss in
52 Kiwi's extinct cousin
53 Mound stat
54 Equipment

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	D	E	N	■	S	L	I	D	■	S	I	A
L	E	V	I	■	A	O	N	E	■	H	O	G
B	L	A	C	K	S	W	A	N	■	O	U	R
■	■	■	K	I	S	S	■	O	P	E	R	A
A	S	H	F	N	■	■	S	T	A	B	■	■
V	I	O	L	■	I	M	P	E	L	L	E	D
C	R	A	■	A	R	I	A	S	■	A	I	R
R	E	S	T	L	E	S	S	■	A	C	R	E
■	■	E	R	A	S	■	■	A	S	K	E	W
B	A	S	E	D	■	B	A	C	H	■	■	■
U	G	H	■	D	E	A	D	H	O	R	S	E
D	U	O	■	I	N	T	O	■	R	A	K	E
S	C	E	■	N	C	S	S	■	E	M	I	R

Yesterday's answer 3-16

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Judah Friedlander, 42; Lauren Graham, 44; Victor Garber, 62; Jerry Lewis, 85

Happy Birthday: The experience you gain this year will enable you to embark on ventures that lead to better projects as well as partnerships. Spending more time with the people in your life who count should be your number one priority. Don't allow anyone to coerce you into something that doesn't fit into your plans. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 22, 29, 30, 36

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look for a fun way to spend the day. Incorporating a change of pace into your life will rejuvenate you and inspire you to take on new challenges, leading to more skills, a better position or closer friendships. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work quietly on your own and you will bypass conflict and accomplish what you set out to do. Don't let any negative influences slow you down or lead you astray. Separate personal and emotional matters from your professional responsibilities. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a serious approach to your work and the connections you can make while contributing to an industry group or cause you feel strongly about. Favors will be offered that will enable you to surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): What's most important right now is securing your income and earning potential. By showing how intent you are to get things done properly, you will instill confidence in those you work with, resulting in opportunities to advance. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Address any situation that you feel needs tweaking. You'll be able to express your thoughts with a persuasive, heartfelt manner that cannot be denied. Added discipline will enable you to take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Whether it's a personal investment, debt owed or a means to bring in more cash through a hobby or skill, you must follow through. Do your best to increase your potential for profits. Put money into something that will grow in value. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Engage in social, community or organizational events and you will be able to make a difference with the contributions you make. An opportunity to partner with someone who shares your concerns will enable you to find solutions and act upon them. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your own decisions based on your needs, not what someone else wants you to do. You will face emotional deception if you trust in someone looking out for his or her own interests. Take charge of whatever situation you face. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may face a little opposition from friends or neighbors if you aren't willing to conform today. However, if you stick close to home and focus on how you can accommodate your goals for the future, you will bypass any controversy going on in your community. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Expect to be criticized if you aren't compassionate regarding a sensitive situation. Take heed of how someone you respect is handling the situation and you will save yourself a lot of grief and possible isolation. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Plan to have some fun and to experiment with activities that interest you. Attending a reunion or simply contacting someone you used to know through a social network will open up a door that you should probably have never let close. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Find ways to expand on an idea you have or to enhance your skills. Getting to know people you work with better or reconnecting with people you have worked with in the past will help you get back into the mainstream where you belong. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and forever in pursuit of higher achievements. You are playful, engaging and popular.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	5				9	1	
7			6		8			4
			9					8
			5 4					2 7
		6					8	
	9					5		
4					7			
3	8	7	1		6	2	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	3	6	5	7	8	4	2
7	5	4	2	1	8	6	9	3
8	6	2	3	4	9	5	7	1
6	1	8	9	7	2	4	3	5
5	3	9	1	8	4	7	2	6
2	4	7	5	6	3	1	8	9
4	2	5	8	3	1	9	6	7
3	8	6	7	9	5	2	1	4
9	7	1	4	2	6	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GREAT MIGRATION OF WILDLIFE Solution: 8 letters

S	R	E	B	S	D	S	R	S	S	D	Z	P	S	(A)
E	M	A	N	E	C	E	R	L	L	E	T	S	(E)	R
A	T	E	E	I	T	Y	A	O	B	I	O	(R)	N	O
S	D	R	T	N	L	M	C	R	I	R	(A)	I	S	U
O	B	C	I	S	I	T	A	L	C	V	A	R	E	T
N	R	W	I	N	Y	L	S	A	E	T	A	N	T	E
A	S	P	A	P	N	S	F	A	N	E	E	H	V	S
L	N	R	J	E	E	A	O	U	O	R	M	O	E	T
E	I	E	O	S	S	T	O	C	G	C	L	I	S	B
V	A	P	U	I	T	M	D	Y	E	U	C	A	T	A
A	L	A	R	R	I	I	T	N	T	E	F	N	U	P
R	P	R	N	L	V	H	A	I	P	B	K	A	D	H
T	E	E	E	E	T	R	O	S	A	F	E	E	I	I
R	N	S	Y	A	C	N	E	C	A	L	P	C	E	D
Z	O	O	P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	S	O	S	S

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Across, Animals, Aphids, Arctic, Area, Back, Bats, Behaviors, Breed, Coastline, Cold, Crane, Cycle, Dens, Dive, Ecosystems, Energy, Epic, Evolution, Fast, Food, Journey, Linear, Miles, Mountain, Nest, Ocean, Path, Place, Plains, Prepare, Rest, Rise, Routes, Safe, Seasonal, Seek, Sense, Species, Studies, Time, Trails, Travel, Winter, Zebra, Zooplankton

Yesterday's Answer: Chrissy

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WHATZIT Solution: Back to basics

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAVILI GENERAL PARTNERSHIP,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0282**
Plaintiff	:	
-v-	:	
GUANG L. JIN,	:	
Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty (20) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 16th day of FEBRUARY. 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Saipan Tribune

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Classified Ads

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Impressive Lakers roll past Orlando in 2nd half

LOS ANGELES (AP)—By the time Kobe Bryant talked himself into a little confidence in his swollen ankle in the second half, Andrew Bynum and the Los Angeles Lakers' reserves had already taken care of Dwight Howard and the Orlando Magic.

Pau Gasol scored 23 points, Bryant added 16 while playing on a sprained left ankle, and the Lakers roared away in the second half for their 10th win in 11 games, 97-84 Monday night.

Bynum had 10 points, a career high-tying 18 rebounds and four blocks while hounding Howard into nine turnovers—four more than the entire Lakers squad—in another eye-catching low-post game for the Lakers' young center.

It all added up to a rather easy night of work for Bryant, who decided to play despite seriously rolling his ankle during the third quarter of Saturday's win at Dallas.

"It was more mental," said Bryant, who went 7 for 19 and missed eight shots in the first half. "It affected my bounce a little bit just because of the trust factor, just trusting it in the first half. Then at halftime, I just gave it a little pep talk."

Bryant can afford to be cautious while his Lakers are on their most impressive streak of the season. Thanks to the Los Angeles reserves' decisive rally early in the fourth quarter, Bryant had to play just 30 minutes.

Lamar Odom scored 16 points as the two-time defending champions opened a seven-game homestand with another win over an elite team after an early season filled with flops against the NBA's best. The Lakers (48-20) also drew virtually even with the Dallas Mavericks (47-19) for second place in the Western Conference standings.

"We want to win every game on this home stretch here," Bynum said. "(Howard) is a great player who's going to get his numbers, but we started scoring, too."

Derek Fisher scored 15 points for the Lakers, who have the next three days off before lowly Minnesota visits on Friday. Los Angeles already had beaten San Antonio, Dallas, Atlanta (twice) and Oklahoma City since the break before this stirring second-half effort against the talented Magic, who appear entrenched in fourth place in the East.

Howard had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Magic, who couldn't get rolling offensively in the second half of this 2009 NBA finals rematch. The Lakers all remembered last month's meeting in Orlando, when Howard dominated with 31 points and 13 rebounds while barely missing a shot.

"I just think they came out and played better in the second half, especially with their post defense," Howard said. "They squared everybody in the paint and they forced me to make plays out to my teammates. They made it tough for me to score. We've just got to learn how to play through it."

The Magic led throughout the first half, but the Lakers pushed ahead early in the third quarter. They didn't pull away until a lineup stacked with reserves made an 18-5 run spanning the final two quarters, running Orlando's starters off the court.

Los Angeles went ahead 85-69 on Odom's 3-pointer with 7:14 to play, and the Magic never got closer than 11 points after that.

"We had a good second half," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "Got our offense running a little bit, got some steals and some easy baskets. (Bynum) did an adequate job on Howard, and he did a great job on the boards. ... I think Orlando faded a little bit. They were tired after that back-to-back."

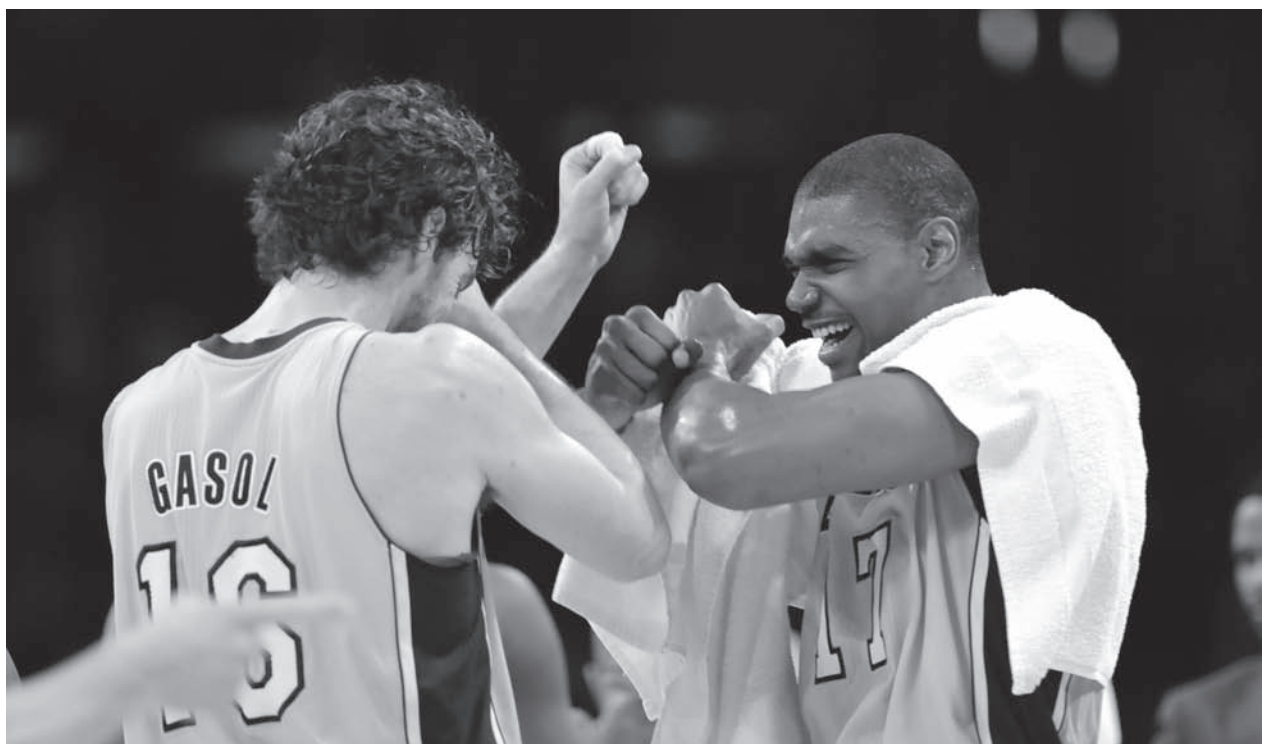
Ryan Anderson and Jameer Nelson scored 13 points apiece for the Magic. Coach Stan Van Gundy left his starters in the blowout until the final buzzer of Orlando's fourth stop on a five-game road trip ending in Milwaukee.

"We didn't play with as much energy in the second half," Van Gundy said. "A good part of that is their defense. Give them credit, but we didn't move the ball the way that we should have. Bottom line is the game comes down to turnovers and rebounding."

Bynum's improved play has been a major reason for Los Angeles' surge after the All-Star break. The 23-year-old with creaky knees still isn't in perfect health after missing the start of the season, but he soundly outplayed Howard early.

Bynum got more cheers than Bryant when both left the game in the final minutes.

"He's consistently performing this way, so we expect it from him," Bryant said. "This is how he should play, and this is how he's going to play."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers teammates forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, and center Andrew Bynum (17) celebrate during a timeout in the second half of an NBA basketball game against Orlando Magic, Monday, March 14, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Heat 110, Spurs 80

At Miami, Chris Bosh scored 30 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade scored 29 as the Miami Heat avenged their worst loss of the season by rolling past the NBA-leading Spurs.

LeBron James finished with 21 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Heat, who have won three straight and moved within two games of Eastern Conference front-runners Boston and Chicago. Miami lost 125-95 in San Antonio on March 4, the midpoint of a five-game slide that now seems all but forgotten after wins over the Los Angeles Lakers, Memphis Grizzlies and now the Spurs.

Tony Parker scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 14 for the Spurs, who had won 15 of their last 18 against Miami.

Kings 129, Warriors 119

At Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton scored 42 points and Samuel Dalembert had 27 in what might have been the final meeting ever in Sacramento against Golden State.

DeMarcus Cousins added 15 as the Kings had their second-highest scoring game of the season and shot 57 percent to win for just the second time in their past nine home games.

Al Thornton scored 23 points and Stephen Curry added 19 to lead the Warriors.

The Kings are contemplating a move to Anaheim after the season.

Rockets 95, Suns 93

At Houston, Kevin Martin scored 23 points, Chuck Hayes had a career-high 21 points and nine rebounds as Houston snapped a seven-game losing streak to Phoenix.

Kyle Lowry added 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Rockets, who stayed three games behind Memphis in the race for the final playoff spot.

Vince Carter scored 21 to lead the Suns, who played without point guard Steve Nash for the second straight game.

The Suns slipped 2 1/2 games behind the Grizzlies in the race for the No. 8 playoff spot in the West.

Nets 88, Celtics 79

At Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez scored 20 points, and Deron Williams added 16 and made the clinching 3-pointer, as New Jersey extended its longest winning streak in three years to five games.

Kris Humphries had 16 points and 15 rebounds, following his strong performance against Blake Griffin by turning in one against Kevin Garnett to help the Nets snap a nine-game home losing streak against the Celtics.

Ray Allen scored 19 points and Garnett had 18 for the Celtics.

Thunder 116, Wizards 89

At Washington, Kevin Durant scored 32 points and Russell Westbrook had 18 points and 12 assists as Oklahoma City downed Washington.

It was the 25th time this season that Durant, the NBA scoring leader, scored at least 30 points. He scored 40 in the previous meeting between the two teams on Jan. 28.

Daequan Cook had 18 points and was 6 for 9 on 3-pointers for Oklahoma City, which has now won four straight and six of seven, as well as the last five meetings against Washington.

Trevor Booker had 14 points and a career-high 13 rebounds, John Wall had 14 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and JaVale McGee also scored 14 points for the Wizards.

Nuggets 114, Hornets 103

At New Orleans, Ty Lawson scored 23 points as Denver combined for 17 3-pointers in a victory over New Orleans.

Raymond Felton added 22 points, hitting six 3s for Denver, while J.R. Smith hit five 3s and finished with 18 points.

Denver made 17 of 29 3-pointers to build a 23-point lead Wilson Chandler's 3 made it 91-68 in the third quarter. Chandler hit four 3s and finished with 21 points.

Chris Paul had 27 points and 10 assists for the Hornets.

Grizzlies 105, Clippers 82

At Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help Memphis snap a two-game losing streak.

Randolph connected on 12 of 18 shots from the field as Memphis secured its hold on the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Sam Young finished with 14 points and Mike Conley had 13 for Memphis. Darrell Arthur chipped in 12 points and Greivis Vasquez scored a career-high 11.

Eric Bledsoe scored 19 points, Chris Kaman added 14 and Mo Williams 11 for the Clippers. Rookie forward Blake Griffin was limited to eight points and nine rebounds, his fourth straight game without reaching a double-double—the longest such drought for Griffin.

Jazz 112, Sixers 107, OT

At Salt Lake City, Andrei Kirilenko scored seven of his 16 points in overtime as short-handed Utah beat Philadelphia.

The Jazz led by as many as 21 points in the second quarter, 18 in the third and 15 in the fourth before Philadelphia rallied. The Sixers had a 103-101 lead with 11.5 seconds left in regulation thanks to a 14-point quarter by Andre Iguodala.

C.J. Miles' driving layup tied it and Iguodala missed what would have been the game-winner. Kirilenko then took over, hitting a 3-pointer, putback dunk and two free throws to seal the win.

Jindal anticipates Louisiana payment to Hornets

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The state likely will have to pay the Hornets about $7 million in subsidies which kick in whenever the team does not meet certain annual revenue benchmarks, but the NBA franchise also is working productively with political leaders toward the goal of remaining in New Orleans, Gov. Bobby Jindal said.

The governor mentioned the anticipated subsidy payment after discussing his role in a new marketing effort designed to strengthen the Hornets' season ticket base and secure the club's future in New Orleans.

"We do expect to be making a payment to the team under the current contract that's fully funded," Jindal said. "Certainly, if we see the results of this campaign, we'd be in a better position."

Jindal is among several other high-ranking politicians and local celebrities who are promoting the Hornets' "I'm in" marketing campaign. The effort has been joined by Saints quarterback Drew Brees; New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter; married political consultants James Carville and Mary Matalin; Archbishop Gregory Aymond; jazz trumpeters Kermit Ruffins and Jeremy Davenport; and Cajun fiddler Amanda Shaw.

The multimedia campaign, which will be seen on television and on billboards in the metropolitan area, highlights the Hornets' role in the region's recovery from Hurricane Katrina and asks fans to see their NBA franchise as not just a basketball team but a community asset that enhances the city's global profile.

The Hornets currently are owned by the NBA, which bought the team last December with the intent of improving it's financial footing and then reselling it. NBA commissioner David Stern, as well as the man he appointed to be the league's caretaker of the club—Jac Sperling—have said all along that the hope is to find a buyer who will not move the club.

Sperling, a New Orleans native with a distinguished career as a sports attorney, said the significance of the extent to which high-ranking state and city officials are collaborating with the team is unusual and a further sign of the club's intentions. The team's effort to upgrade with trades during this season was another such indication of the team's commitment to the region, Sperling said.

"It's easy to say, 'They're leaving,' ... but the commissioner didn't sell it to somebody for relocation. He hired me and he knew what I was going to try to do," Sperling said. "I'm doing what he asked me to do, and that's to try to make it attractive to a local buyer. And then, even the last few trades—these are not signs of a team that's thinking about trying to relocate. These are signs we're trying to invest here.

"The subtle note of us working with (political leaders) is a very telling one as well," Sperling said. "We want it to work."

Lead negotiator says NFL proposed 10-year CBA

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, joined at left by Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, speaks with reporters as negotiations between the NFL owners and players go unresolved, at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, Friday, March 11, 2011. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Had enough of the he-said, he-said rancor between the NFL and players? Don't expect it to go away anytime soon.

The outcome of the league's first work stoppage since 1987 could be decided in court; the first hearing on the players' request for an injunction to block the owners' lockout was scheduled for April 6. In the meantime, there probably will be more of the same as Monday, when Kevin Mawae—president of the NFL Players Association, the now-dissolved union—accused the league of spreading "complete falsehoods and complete lies."

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, on the same conference call as Mawae, said the owners' final offer Friday "was all a front."

"I think it was all a show, with no real intent to get a deal done, other than just to say they made a proposal—that was no different than anything else that they proposed over the last couple years, couple months, couple weeks," said Brees, a named plaintiff in the players' antitrust lawsuit against the league.

Brees and Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, also a member of the players' executive committee, complained that the players were not given enough time to assess and ask questions about the proposal owners made Friday morning.

"It just seems odd you would wait until Friday to put out a 20-point proposal, when each point has a number of different details in it," Saturday said.

The NFL's lead labor negotiator, Jeff Pash, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that Friday's proposal contained various new provisions. He said owners offered a 10-year deal.

"I was frankly surprised that the (owners' labor) committee supported an offer as forthcoming as that was," Pash said.

He also said the league would have been willing to agree to a third extension to the collective bargaining agreement, which originally was due to expire at the end of March 3, before two delays. But another extension, he said, "wasn't really discussed in a serious way, because it was perfectly obvious they weren't interested."

By the end of Friday, talks broke off, the union announced it no longer would represent players, Brees and others filed suit, and the owners imposed a lockout at midnight.

"If they were saying they were not going to negotiate, under any circumstance, after 4 p.m. on Friday, don't you think you have to ask yourself: Who was it who was in Washington putting on a show?" Pash said.

"We answered all the questions they had at the time, and we never put a deadline on it. We're not the ones who were filing a lawsuit at 5 o'clock," Pash said.

For all the things the owners and players disagree on, the two main sticking points are clear: how much money owners would get up front before dividing the rest of $9 billion in annual revenues with players, and the union's demand for full financial disclosure.

"If we're going to talk about 'trust,' maybe you should ask the owners if they trust each other to see each others' books," Mawae said. "I think that's a greater issue than the players trusting the owners."

Under the old CBA, owners received more than $1 billion to cover certain operating expenses, before other money was split with players. When negotiations began on a new deal, the owners sought an additional $1 billion off the top. Both sides acknowledge there was movement in that area.

But as the NFLPA's lead spokesman, George Atallah, put it Monday: "The perception is that we were really, really close. The reality is we really, really weren't."

Because the NFLPA says it no longer is a union, but rather a trade association - a distinction the NFL calls a "sham" - Atallah said any decision to return to negotiations would be up to the lawyers representing the players, rather than NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith. Asked whether there would be talks before the April 6 hearing, Atallah replied: "As of now, no."

The league, meanwhile, would prefer to return to the negotiating table. Starting Feb. 18, the sides met 16 times at federal mediator's office.

"We would get back together with them tomorrow if they wanted to. We're not the ones who walked out. We're not the ones who renounced our status. We're not the ones who filed litigation," Pash said. "So we would get back together with them tomorrow. And if they have questions about our proposal, we'd answer them. If they have alternatives they want us to consider, we'd consider them."

Mawae said that if the NFL contends the union walked away from mediation, "that's a fabrication and a lie. We sat in that room ... Tuesday and Wednesday of last week for 16 hours. ... We met face-to-face a total of 30 minutes."

Pondexter apologizes for tweet about Japan

New York Liberty guard Cappie Pondexter apologized for Twitter postings over the weekend about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Pondexter tweeted on Saturday: "What if God was tired of the way they treated their own people in there own country! Idk guys he makes no mistakes."

She later tweeted: "u just never knw! They did pearl harbor so u can't expect anything less."

Pondexter posted an apology Monday:

"I wanna apologize to anyone I may hurt or offended during this tragic time," the tweet said. "I didn't realize that my words could be interpreted in the manner which they were. People that knw me would tell u 1st hand I'm a very spiritual person and believe that everything, even disasters happen 4 a reason and that God will shouldn't be questioned but this is a very sensitive subject at a very tragic time and I shouldn't even have given a reason for the choice of words I used.

"The least thing I wanted was to hurt or offend anyone so again I truly apologize. If you've lost respect for me that's totally fine but please don't let me or my words lose the respect of u the WNBA and what it stands for.

"I'm very strong woman evn strong enough 2 admit an apologize when I'm wrong. Twitter is a voice and wth tht I wanna apologize again."

The WNBA declined to comment on Pondexter's tweets, but the Liberty released a statement later Monday.

"We have spoken to Cappie and the content of that conversation will remain internal. She made a mistake and quickly apologized for that mistake. We will have no further comment." ***(AP)***

Titans owner sends letter to season ticket holders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans owner Bud Adams has sent a letter to season ticket holders answering questions on the NFL's lockout, the draft and how refunds will be handled if any games are canceled.

The Titans say the letter from Adams was mailed out on Monday so season ticket holders should begin receiving them starting Tuesday. The team also posted a message from the owner to fans on its website Monday in moves to reach out to fans a couple days after the team closed the main gate to its offices and practice fields with a chain.

"I know many of you have questions about the upcoming 2011 season and how it will be affected by the work stoppage," Adams wrote to season ticket holders.

In his message on the website, Adams said they were all disappointed mediation ended and the labor deal with the union expired Friday.

"As a league, we believe that any agreement will have to be reached at the bargaining table with the union and not through the court system. We hope that those negotiations can be resumed sooner rather than later," Adams wrote.

On the back of the letter is a list of eight questions and answers, including noting that payments on season tickets will be delayed and whether replacement players might be used is a league decision, not one to be made by the Titans.

The last invoice for season tickets will be going out in mid-April, but the Titans say the payment deadline will depend on the duration of the "work stoppage" along with the time needed to print and deliver tickets before games begin. Personal seat license contracts allow the team not to give refunds until the season ends, but the Titans promise to process written requests for refunds once a number of canceled games is known.

They also note that any canceled games could be rescheduled.

"It is only a question of when we reach an agreement," according to the team's answer to whether games might be canceled this season.

The seventh question is whether the NFL would use replacement players if a labor deal is not in place before the 2011 season begins. The team points out that use of replacement players is an NFL decision and not up to individual clubs.

"We know of no plans to use replacement players in 2011," the team wrote.

The Titans are the NFL team most affected by the NFL lockout as the last team to hire a new head coach in Mike Munchak. He needs a new quarterback with the Titans planning to trade or release Vince Young, and the lockout means Munchak and his coaches can't talk to players until a labor deal is reached.

"We are extremely excited about Mike and the coaching staff he has assembled," said Adams, who keeps his home and office in Houston. "If leadership, skill and experience count for anything, and they do, Mike and his staff will make all of us proud."

For now, the Titans are focusing on the April draft. They hold the eighth pick overall and are trying to put the pieces back together after a 6-10 season ended with Young on the outs and Jeff Fisher leaving weeks later.

Adams tells fans in his message on the website that the coaches are watching tape to learn the current players, preparing playbooks and prepping for the draft while the front office prepares to improve the team once an agreement is reached.

"We will be ready as an organization once football activity resumes," his message concluded.

Seman tops RGA March Ace qualifier

Jessie Seman moved a step closer to clinching the Refaluwasch Golfers Association March Ace after ruling a qualifying tournament last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Seman carded a net 70 to set the score to beat for this month's Ace. If no RGA member scores better than 70 in the club's next tournament, Seman gets to keep the March Ace title.

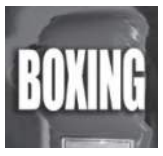
Two other RGA members tallied a net 70, but Seman defeated Dwaine Stephens and Ed Kapileo in the scorecard on the front nine. The seven-handicapper Seman shot a 36 on the front for a net 32.5 and then fired a gross 41 on the back.

The 14-handicapper Stephens had a net 36 on the front and gross 41 on the back, while Kapileo shot a 48 on the front and deducting half of his 24 handicap, he also ended up with a net 36 in the first nine holes.

Twelve other RGA members joined last weekend's tournament. They with their net scores in parenthesis were Jun Piao (71), Joe Wabol (83), Tom Tebuteb (87), Steve Balakrishna (76), Ulysis Kapileo (85), Manny Mangarero (83), Tars Olopai (78), Jess Wabol 71), Sonny Flores (75), Joe Saures (74), Joe Lizama (86), and Tony Rogolifoi (78).

Ulysis Kapileo won the closest to the pin contests on hole Nos. 6 and 12, while Jess Wabol recorded the lowest net of the day with his 1-over par 73. The two-handicapper Wabol had a 1-under par 35 on the front nine and then shot a 2-over par 38 on the back. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Tyson: Mayweather has edge over Pacquiao



If there's one fight Mike Tyson wants to see then it's the superfight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

He said if and when that happens, Mayweather will have the upperhand.

Speaking to Showtime broadcaster Jim Grey, the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world said he can't wait to see Pacquiao and Mayweather up in the ring.

"I would love to see the fight," Tyson told Grey as written by Ricardo Lois of The Examiner.

The former champion, who made some of the biggest news inside and outside the ring, also said there's one reason why he wants the fight to happen.

Pacquiao

Mayweather

"I would love to see the odds, so I can make a bet," he said.

Tyson used the fight against Juan Manuel Marquez by both Pacquiao and Mayweather as a gauge for the superfight.

"Pacquiao went life and death with Marquez," said Tyson of a 2008 encounter between the Filipino champion and the Mexican counterpuncher.

The two boxers also figured in a very tight contest, which ended in a controversial draw, in 2004.

"Then Mayweather dominated him (Marquez)," said Tyson, referring to the undefeated American's lopsided win against Marquez in 2009.

Twice over the last couple of years, Pacquiao vs Mayweather came close to happening, but on both occasions, negotiations fell off.

MOBIL

From Page 28

clueless on what went wrong in the short series.

Mobil completed the sweep as the nightmare of its second-quarter collapse in Game 1 haunted IP&E Konflikt in Game 2.

IP&E Konflikt led by 13, 24-11, in the opening minutes of the second quarter in Game 2, but Mobil came back and forced a tie at the break, 34-all. After taking the momentum midway in the second quarter, Mobil hung on tough in the second half to foil IP&E Konflikt's bid of extending the series.

In Mobil's Game 1 win, 84-69, the newly crowned champion fell behind at the end of the first period, 12-24, but held IP&E Konflikt to six points in the second canto to grab the upperhand at halftime, 47-30.

IP&E Konflikt never recovered from thereon and it continued to choke in Game 2 despite having another good start on Monday night.

After the first-half deadlock, IP&E Konflikt and Mobil went neck-and-neck with neither team leading by more than five points. By the end of the third period, Mobil was only ahead by three, 53-50.

The slugfest continued in the fourth canto before IP&E Konflikt missed a lot of opportunities to steal Game 2 in the homestretch when it muffed several shots and committed two crucial defensive lapses.

Behind at 61-62, with 1:37 left in the game, Joemary Tumaquip missed three charities. His first throw miss was nullified after Jorge De Guzman was called for a line violation. After Tumaquip's third miss, Marvin Rabauliman fed Jun Estolas from the backcourt, and the Mobil guard canned a fastbreak layup for a 64-61 lead, 1:15 left on the clock. Earlier before Tumaquip's botched charities, he also faltered a floater, Junar Guiab missed two open jumpers, Mel Capalad took a forced shot, and Edwin Santos lost the ball in a fastbreak play.

To make matters worst for IP&E Konflikt, it played without Elmer Esdrelon in the last 3:02 of the game due to cramps. Esdrelon struggled in the series, as after making only seven points in Game 1, he was held to only three free throws and was without a field goal in Game 2.

With Esdrelon having another offnight, IP&E Konflikt relied heavily on Ivan De Vero and Kae Bernardo, who drilled a quick jumper, cutting Mobil's lead, 63-64, 1:07 to go in Game 2.

Then IP&E Konflikt played good defense for 22 seconds in the ensuing play only to leave Bon Tamayo open at the right wing for a layup that upped Mobil's lead to three, 66-63.

De Vero sliced it to a deuce after making his first charity, 64-66. He missed the second free throw and Rabauliman took the long rebound. Rabauliman passed the leather to Tamayo, who managed to pitch the ball to Estolas to the frontcourt for another fastbreak layup. Guaib was chasing Tamayo and trying to give up a foul, but the latter was quick to give up the ball before the former clobbered him.

Behind by four, 68-64, Guaib pulled up for a hurried triple and missed. IP&E Konflikt went on to give up three quick fouls with the clock reading less than 30 seconds.

An unsportsmanlike foul charged on Bernardo sealed the doom for IP&E Konflikt, as Jorge De Guzman was given two free throws and Mobil retained possession.

Estolas top-scored for Mobil with 20 points, while Tamayo had 19, making 13 of them in the second half. Rabauliman finished with 14.

Estolas was later named Finals MVP, duplicating the feat of Bonbon Cadagat, who took the same award when Prospects won the inaugural UBA caging against the Ol'Aces.

Mobil 71 – Estolas 20, Tamayo 19, Rabauliman 14, Gamboa 5, Gapor 4, Sharry 4, De Guzman 3, Basila 2.

IP&E 64 –De Vero 23, Bernardo 18, Tumaquip 9, Esdrelon 3, Capalad 3, Talania 2, Santos 2, Berline 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-21, 34-34, 53-50, 71-64.

XTERRA

From Page 28

2:31:06. He could have posted a better time if not for having flat tires twice and crashing once at the new route to Lamar trail. Daly, who completed XTERRA Sport last year in less than two hours (1:57:23) was second out of the water after the first lap with his 09:56, 10th in the bike at 1:57:50, and fourth in the run (20:18).

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kaisei Toda was the youngest finisher in XTERRA Sport at 12, completing the race in 2:34:10 (ninth overall). He was first out of the water at 9:28 and posted 1:59:09 and 22:43 in the bike and run legs, respectively.

Heather Kennedy, who was second overall last year behind Australia's Emma Viotto, was the first female to cross the finish line at the American Memorial Park at the 2:23:30 mark. Kennedy logged 13:54 in the swim leg, 1:44:56 in the bike, and 21:22 in the run race.

Completing the XTERRA Sport finishers were Ricky Melchor (2:15:26), Noel Altamirano (2:19:58), Edmund Ewing (2:24:00), Jack Kabiriel (2:27:59), Tim Goodwin (2:30:34), John Arceo (2:37:08), Celerino Calayag (2:38:21), Tina Goodwin (2:48:07), Jeff Diyco (2:49:00), Derek Chambers (2:54:06), Andrea Engelhardt (2:57:03), Amanda Kloeppel (3:20:03), and Masanobu Sago (3:33:43).

In the relay race, the trio of Alan Weber, Raymund Tolentino, and June Evangelista was the No.1 overall finisher with a combined time of 2:24:13. Weber swam in 12:12, Tolentino timed in at 1:51:39 in the bike, and Evangelista clocked in at 19:04 in the run leg.

Father and son Ben and Benjamin Babauta placed second at 2:44:37. Benjamin did the swim leg and submitted 13:59, while Ben tallied 1:59:16 and 28:16 in the bike and run races, respectively.

Daniel Clarkson, John Jenkins, and Bernard Samson finished third overall with a time of 2:52:41; Allison Moore and Susan Marchitti came in fourth at 3:07:26; and James Arenovski, Steve Nutting, and John Jones placed fifth at 3:28:15.

BUCHER

From Page 28

Championship and will focus in Tagaman this Saturday. I will push myself harder to win the Tagaman and the PIC Double," the Swiss triathlete said in post race interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Saturday. "Hopefully, I still have the legs to win this longer race. It will be great to complete my stay here with a win in Tagaman and the PIC Double," Bucher said.

Bucher saw her streak in XTERRA Saipan end last weekend when she finished only third in the women's division. American pro Shonny Vanlandingham grabbed the women's tiara from Bucher and Austria's Carina Wasle caught up with the Swiss in the run leg to take the runner-up spot. Bucher timed in at 3:06:33 in last Saturday's race, more than eight minutes behind her 2010 winning time of 2:58:19.

In Tagaman, Bucher will be battling Wasle, United Kingdom's Daz Parker, U.S. pro Suzie Snyder, Saipan's Mieko Carey, and defending champion Dan Bi Hong of Korea. Vanlandingham will not make it to Tagaman this time, as she needs to return to the mainland for another race.

Hong topped last year's Tagaman with a time of 3:20:47, beating Vanlandingham (3:23:53) and Bucher (3:24:36). With Bucher winning the 2010 XTERRA Saipan and placing third in Tagaman, she earned the PIC Double title in the women's division.

Times in XTERRA and Tagaman are combined to determine winners in the PIC Double. Sam Gardner won last year and is expected to score a repeat this weekend.

This Saturday's Tagaman will have a 2k swim in the waters of Pacific Islands Club, 60k bike race from PIC to the northern part of the island in Marpi and to AMP, and 15k run race along the scenic Beach Road.

Meanwhile, the public is invited to a free pro clinic at PIC tomorrow at 7pm. Alan Conlinson will hold a clinic about injury prevention. A separate clinic on nutrition and training was held last night with Gardner as facilitator.

"These are huge opportunities and they are free. These types of clinics are not available much on Saipan, so please show your support by coming down to PIC," Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica said.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

squad to win three games in the team event will be declared the champion. Format in the singles and doubles will be decided based on the draws. Games will be played from 1pm to 9pm on March 26 and from 9am to 8pm on March 27.

Korea dominated the last goodwill tournament Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association hosted in November at the Ada gym. The visiting Koreans topped the singles, doubles, and team event against Saipan, Tinian, and Korean Pingpong Association on Saipan players.

In the singles event, Korea A's Hee Yeol Park claimed the first place trophy, while teammate Young Chol Cheon and Jae Hoon Jang took the runner-up and third place awards, respectively.

In the team event, Korea A went unbeaten in four games to reign in the six-squad field. Tinian A and Korea B were tied for second with their identical 3-1 records, but the former won the tiebreak and the runner-up trophy. Korea B dropped to third place

The defending champion will be back with seven players, three of them are females, while Guam is sending five.

Saipan will have three new male players, including Micronesian Games lawn tennis back-to-back gold medalist Todd Montgomery. The host will team up with members of the Korean Pingpong Association on Saipan.

Tinian will have its tested roster that includes Mark Ma, Luke Lu, Charlie Cheng, Su Yong Dong, Robin Lu, Bright Liu, Alfred Yue, and Liang Wei Bin.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	47	19	.712	–
New York	34	31	.523	12 1/2
Philadelphia	34	34	.500	14
New Jersey	23	43	.348	24
Toronto	18	48	.273	29

Southeast Division

x-Miami	47	21	.691	–
Orlando	42	26	.618	5
Atlanta	38	28	.576	8
Charlotte	28	38	.424	18
Washington	16	50	.242	30

Central Division

y-Chicago	47	18	.723	–
Indiana	28	38	.424	19 1/2
Milwaukee	26	39	.400	21
Detroit	23	44	.343	25
Cleveland	12	53	.185	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	54	14	.794	–
Dallas	47	19	.712	6
New Orleans	39	31	.557	16
Memphis	38	31	.551	16 1/2
Houston	35	34	.507	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	44	23	.657	–
Denver	41	27	.603	3 1/2
Portland	37	29	.561	6 1/2
Utah	36	33	.522	9
Minnesota	17	51	.250	27 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	48	20	.706	–
Phoenix	33	33	.500	14
Golden State	30	38	.441	18
L.A. Clippers	26	43	.377	22 1/2
Sacramento	17	49	.258	30

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

New Jersey 88, Boston 79
Oklahoma City 116, Washington 89
Memphis 105, L.A. Clippers 82
Denver 114, New Orleans 103
Miami 110, San Antonio 80
Houston 95, Phoenix 93
Utah 112, Philadelphia 107, OT
Sacramento 129, Golden State 119
L.A. Lakers 97, Orlando 84

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA JV Basketball League Playoffs

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Enrico Del Rosario, right, battles the rebound against Agape's Jacky Zheng during their semis game in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week. GCA won, 36-28.

Agape's Joseph Yang Tao pulls up for a shot against GCA's Dong Ha Lee.

GCA's Karlo De Leon makes a layup.

Saipan International School's Emily Jones dribbles against a GCA defender during their semis game. SIS won, 19-13.

GCA's Jazmine Rayphand picks up a loose ball.

SIS' Jordan Butcher, left, challenges the defense of GCA's Enrico Del Rosario.

Whispering Palms players pose with their runner-up trophy.

GCA's Jason Miguel, center, pulls up for a shot against SIS' Andrew Johnson, left, and Jordan Butcher.

Runners-up SIS Geckos pose with their trophy.

Seventh Day Adventist principal Michael Berglund, second right, is joined by SDA players in receiving the sportsmanship trophy.

Impressive Lakers roll past Orlando in 2nd half

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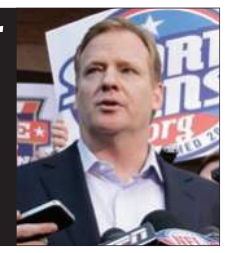
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lead negotiator says NFL proposed 10-year CBA



Mobil sweeps IP&E for UBA title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and coaches of Mobil pose with their trophies after winning the UBA/Docomo title against IP&E Konflikt on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil made sure its championship banner will not go anywhere but at the center court for the team's title celebration on Monday night.

The banner that Mobil fans had been waving all game long found its way on coach Marvin Deocares players' hands in the end, as they beat IP&E Konflikt in Game 2, 71-64, of the championship series in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win gave Mobil a sweep in the best-of-three title affair and left the No. 1 seeded IP&E Konflikt

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17 survive XTERRA Sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Joe Ngiraibuuch led 16 other finishers in Saturday's XTERRA Sports course.

The former bodybuilder was the first overall finisher in the shorter course in the weekend race, timing in at two hours, nine minutes and 49 seconds. He clocked in at 11:15 in the 750-meter swim, 1:35:28 in the 20-k bike leg, and 18:13 in the 5-k run to top the 35 to 39 age group and beat last year's first overall finisher Kieran Daly.

Daly, who moved up to the 50 to 54 age group, still ruled his new division, but placed eighth overall with a time of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Andrea Engelhardt leads a group of swimmers out of the water in Micro Beach during the XTERRA Sports race last Saturday.

Bucher vows for redemption in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Six-time XTERRA Saipan women's champion Renata Bucher aims to redeem herself in this Saturday's 2011 Tagaman Triathlon after losing her crown in last weekend's race.

"I offered no excuses for my loss in XTERRA Saipan

See BUCHER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Renata Bucher pedals up at the foggy Mt. Tapochao during last Saturday's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Saipan hosts goodwill ping-pong tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Korean player returns to his Saipan foe during a goodwill tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in November last year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan is taking over the hosting chores for the 15th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament from Tinian.

The biannual event that will take place on March 26 and 27 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was originally scheduled at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, but has been moved to Saipan due to accommodation and transportation conflicts.

This month's tournament will feature teams from Saipan, Tinian, Korea, and Guam. The event will have competitions in team, singles, and doubles. A

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